Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-196
Friday
9 October 1987

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-87-196 *9 October 1987*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA

9 October Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Meets With Perez de Cuellar *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
PLO Tells Egypt of Peace Conference Terms *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Sep]* 2
Groups Claim Responsibility for Gaza Clash *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Gaza's Al-Shawwa Urges PLO To Accept 242 *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Oct]* 2

OPEC Affairs

Chairman Says Reports of Surplus 'Wrong' *[SPA]* 3
Saudi Ministry Denies Giving Price Cuts *[SPA]* 3
Indonesian Minister on Planned OPEC Meeting *[KUNA]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ibrahimi Addresses UN General Assembly 5

Chad

President Habre Interviewed by Egyptian Paper 5

Egypt

Iraqi Presidential Envoy Sa'dun Shakir Arrives 7
Delivers Message to Mubarak 7
Ceausescu Congratulates Mubarak on Reelection 7
Delegation Leaves for Geneva Tabah Arbitration 8
Opposition Party Leaders Leave for Khartoum 8
Al-Sharif Discusses Role of Media, Arab Ties *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 5 Oct]* 8

Libya

Confrontation With U.S. Linked to Arab Unity 9
MENA Reports Air Force 'Discontent' 10
Leader Receives Pakistani Islamic Visitors 10

Mauritania

Multisectorial Agreement Signed With Italy 10

Morocco

EEC Commission President Delors Begins Talks 10
Meets King Hassan II 11

Sudan

Small-scale Demonstrations Continue in Khartoum 11
10 Killed by Mines at Lelo, Ahmad Ajak *[Radio SPLA]* 11

Tunisia

Bourguiba Grants Release of 700 Prisoners 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

UN Head Reportedly Rules Out Gulf Visit *[WAM]* 12

Kuwait

Paper Calls USSR Gulf Policy 'Ambiguous' 12

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Charges on Mecca Victims Denied 12

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Interviewed by AL-SAFIR

IRAQ

Communique No 2,865 Details Combat 7-8 Oct 14
UN Told Al-Sulaymaniyah Shelled by Iran 14
Envoy Departs To Congratulate Egypt's Mubarak 14

ISRAEL

Shamir Congratulates Mubarak on Reelection *[DAVAR 9 Oct]* 15
Herzog Scheduled To Pay Official Visit to U.S. *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 Oct]* 15
International Conference Threat to Government *[MA'ARIV 7 Oct]* 15
Communist Party Leader Vilner Interviewed *[Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO 3 Oct]* 17
'PLO Activist' Al-Husayni Held for 6 Months *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 Oct]* 18
5 Wounded in Gaza; Other Disturbances Reported 19

JORDAN

King To Dispatch Envoys With Summit Invitations *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Oct]* 20
Minister on 'Violations' of Al-Aqsa Mosque 20
Three New Colleges for West Bank Approved *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Oct]* 20
AL-DUSTUR on Howe's 'Positive' Statements *[8 Oct]* 20

LEBANON

Lebanese Front Secretary General Resigns 8 Oct 21
Sham'un Returns, Makes Statement on Cairo Visit *[RFL]* 21
Israeli Warplanes Attack Positions in Tyre *[VOM]* 21
Amal Security Plan for Suburbs Postponed *[RFL]* 21
Incidents Between Amal, Palestinians Reported 21
Tension on Combat Lines 21
Clashes in South, Beirut 21
Palestinians Seize Positions *[VOL]* 22
Fall of Kafr Hatta Denied *[VOL]* 22
Resistance Kills 2; Hasbayya Official Expelled 22

Bomb Blast in Tripoli Kills 3 Syrian Soldiers *[RFL]* 22
Sha'ban Calls on Muslims To Follow Iran *[IRNA]* 22
Fadlallah Interviewed on USSR, U.S., Iran *[Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 6 Oct]* 22

SYRIA

Al-Ahmar Receives Lao Party Delegation 8 Oct 25
Papers on 'Correct Solution' for Lebanon 25

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najib, Keshtmand Greet GDR on Founding Day 26
Zhivkov, Others Send Congratulations to Najib 26
Pakistani Envoy Summoned for Journalists Entry 26
Najib Meets Provincial Leaders, Representatives 26
Ziray Attends Farah Province Peace Assembly 26
Herat 'Opposition Groups' Sign Cease-fire 27

India

Pakistani Attack in Siachen Region Repulsed 27
Official Spokesman on Tibet, Dalai Lama 27
Tibetans Scuffle With Police at PRC Embassy *[AFP]* 28
Defense Minister Leaves for Sri Lanka Talks 28
Tamil Liaison, Information Offices To Close *[AFP]* 28
PRC Official Meets Minister of State Faleiro 29
USSR Ready To Make Indian Ocean Peace Zone 29

Iran

Boats 'Savagely Attacked' by U.S. Gunships 29
U.S. Helicopter 'Shot Down' 29
Velayati Message to UN 30
Musavi-Ardabili Sermon Notes U.S. Encounter 31
IRGC Naval Commander on Preparedness in Gulf 31
Japanese Tanker Hit by Missile in Gulf *[KYODO]* 32
Majlis Speaker Views Relations With Japan 32
Japanese Envoy Holds Talks With Counterpart *[KYODO]* 33
Turkish Official Meets Khamene'i, Musavi 33
IRNA on Palestinian Deaths in Gaza 34
U.S. Pressures Allies on Gulf Involvement 34
West's Hold Over Security Council Assailed 35
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 36
Communique No 2,983 36
Iraq Resumes Chemical Warfare 36

Sri Lanka

Indian Peacekeeping Force Begins Operations 37
50 From LTTE Arrested; Mines Kill 21 *[Delhi]* 37
LTTE Leader, Military Commander Arrested *[AFP]* 37
'Powerful Bomb' Rocks Colombo Port; 3 Dead *[AFP]* 37
Indian Defense Minister Arrives for Talks *[Delhi]* 37
Minister Criticizes India Over Violence *[AFP]* 38
Opposition Wins Request for Debate on Crisis 39

9 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD091236 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iran on Clash With U.S.—An Iranian military source cited by IRNA claimed that a U.S. helicopter was hit by an Iranian Stinger missile during the 8 October U.S.-Iranian clash in the northern Gulf. The source said the helicopter crashed in the sea, and he also maintained that a U.S. vessel was hit and damaged when the Iranians fired light missiles at U.S. ships that were assisting U.S. helicopters. Giving Iran's view of how the incident started, the official rejected the U.S. contention that the Iranians fired first, asserting that five Iranian speedboats were on "routine patrol" near Farsi Island when they were "suddenly attacked" by helicopters. Three Iranian boats were hit and the other two escaped, he said.

The agency also reported a statement on the clash by an IRGC naval source, who said the "savage U.S. attack" caused several Iranian casualties, adding that six Iranians were "taken hostage" by the Americans. A War Information Headquarters spokesman described the U.S. attack as an "open military action" against Iran, IRNA added, and he said the United States paved the way for "committing this crime" by recently raising the issue of Iranian speed boats concentrated at Khark Island.

Before the U.S.-Iranian clash, an IRGC naval commander cited by Tehran radio had viewed U.S. "propaganda" on the buildup of Iranian speedboats near Khark Island as an indication that the United States is "frightened of any normal movement by Iran." The Americans must know they cannot anticipate Iran's operations beforehand, the commander asserted, adding that Iranian forces will carry out operations "by fully maintaining the principle of surprise." Noting that one object of Iran's recent "Island Liberation" exercise was "to assess the enemy's preparedness," he said this exercise caused "deep anxiety" among the United States and its allies.

In another maritime development, the French Navy announced that its minesweepers spotted two Soviet-made mines anchored off the UAE coast in the Gulf of Oman, according to AFP.

Iraqi CW Attack—An Iraqi chemical bombardment in the northern Sumar sector of Bakhtaran Province killed around 100 Iranian combatants and wounded many others, IRNA reported. A military spokesman cited by the agency called on the United Nations to investigate this "new Iraqi atrocity." The Iranian report followed Iraq's announcement of "preemptive" air raids against Iranian troop concentrations in the central sector.

Syria-Iraq

A "top-level" Syrian-Iraqi meeting was held "in a border area" 3 October, KUNA reported, citing the UAE paper *Al-Khalij*. The meeting concerned bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Lebanon

Security—The Amal Movement exchanged "violent" artillery fire with Palestinian forces east of Sidon 8-9 October, Beirut radio reported, adding that tension in the Beirut Palestinian camps was high. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Palestinian forces captured the villages of Baysur and Jinsnaya.

In another development, three Syrian soldiers were killed in an explosion near the Syrian intelligence headquarters in Tripoli, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon radio announced. In Beirut, clashes on the Al-Ma'rufiyah and Bsaba lines left two Lebanese army soldiers dead, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Phalangists—Lebanese Front General Secretary Edward Hunayn announced his resignation, Beirut radio revealed.

Israel

IDF radio reported an outbreak of "incidents and disturbances" in the Gaza strip following the killing of four Palestinians in a clash with security forces.

Libya

Responding to State Department remarks on a proposed Algerian-Libyan union, a spokesman for the Foreign Liaison Bureau decried the U.S. appropriation of "a right of veto against Arab unity," Tripoli radio reported. "It is necessary to accept confrontation with the United States" to achieve Arab unity, the official said.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba pardoned 700 prisoners to mark Evacuation Day, Tunis radio announced.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Meets With Perez de Cuellar

JN071902 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York last night.

The talks dealt with the Middle East conflict and the endeavors being exerted by the United Nations to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Palestine question through enabling the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable national rights. The talks between Brother Abu al-Lutf and the UN secretary general also dealt with the continued Zionist aggressions against Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

PLO Tells Egypt of Peace Conference Terms

PM081345 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "PLO Accepts 242 Providing It Participates in International Conference with Independent Delegation]

[Text] Cairo, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* Bureau—*Al-Sharq al-Awsat* has learned that the PLO recently told Egypt of its endorsement of the principle of convening an international peace conference and participating with an independent delegation on the basis of either Resolution 242 or other resolutions. The PLO also does not object to the formula concerning the participation of an Arab delegation in the international conference.

Well-informed sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry confirmed that the PLO has informed Egypt, through recent contacts and visits by a number of Palestinian officials, of its readiness to restore coordination with Jordan on the basis of the right to self-determination for a Palestinian state and the rejection of any attempt to impose U.S. and Israeli conditions on it.

Meanwhile diplomatic reports from Cairo have indicated that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's expected visit will take place next month. Talks between Yasir 'Arafat and senior Egyptian officials are expected to focus on Palestinian-Syrian [as published] relations and the PLO's position on the U.S. formula proposed for convening an international conference.

Groups Claim Responsibility for Gaza Clash

JN071848 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] In Tunis a Palestinian military spokesman emphasized that a number of military men and an Israeli inteligence officer were killed in last night's clash in Gaza between an Israeli patrol and Palestinian commandos. The Palestinian spokesman, however, did not give the number of dead Palestinian commandos.

The PFLP claimed responsibility for this operation. It said that martyr Ghassan Kanafani's group ambushed an 18-strong Israeli patrol and killed or wounded all of its elements.

Also an anonymous person claimed responsibility for yesterday's Gaza operation on behalf of an organization called the Islamic Jihad Squads [Saraya al-Jihad al-Islami]. He added that the Khalid ibn al-Walid squad carried out this operation.

Gaza's Al-Shawwa Urges PLO To Accept 242

JN081148 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Oct 87 p 3

[Interview with Rashad al-Shawwa, deposed Gaza Mayor, by *Sawt al-Sha'b* correspondent Faysal al-Shubul in Amman—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Shubul] In your opinion, what are the most significant challenges currently facing the Palestinian people inside the occupied land? How do you classify these challenges in order of importance and urgency?

[Al-Shawwa] The continuation of the Zionist occupation of Arab territories is the most significant challenge. It is also directly linked to the other challenges, especially Zionist schemes aimed at gradually annexing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. These schemes come after the linking of the occupied territories to the Israeli economy which has made the residents of these territories dependent to a great extent on the Israeli economy.

Thus the aim of our appeal to assist and support the kinfolk under occupation is to increase their ability to resist the harsh and destructive conditions from which they suffer because of continued occupation.

These regrettable conditions prevail not only in Palestinian society but the Arab nation as a whole. We hope the Arab leaders will give their attention to these conditions and seek to eliminate them during the emergency summit. His Majesty King Husayn has secured unanimous approval from the Arab states to convene this summit in Amman.

We also hope this summit will be an opportunity for Arab leaders to jointly rectify the mistakes which have accumulated during past years. Thus, we call on all Arabs to view the issue of ending the occupation as the main objective. I am only dotting the i's and call on everyone to shoulder his responsibility.

[Al-Shubul] How do you view the possibility of achieving a solution in the absence of a unified Arab stand?

[Al-Shawwa] My dearest wish is to see a new understanding between the Jordanian Government and the PLO and to see an understanding by the PLO that the Palestine question is not only the cause of the PLO and people of Palestine, but also of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon. This is particularly true since they surround Palestine. This issue also concerns all the Arab and islamic countries.

I believe all sides, particularly the PLO, should cooperate to make the warring factions inside realize that the real problem is with Israel. Israel is seeking to usurp, annex, and Judaize all Palestinian territory. Everyone both inside and otuside the homeland should unify their ranks before anything else.

I believe that at present we have no hope of finding a just and permanent solution to the Palestine question except through an international conference that can impose just solution on all sides. Thus, the only door open to us is to make an attempt at Security Council Resolution 242. This resolution stipulates the inadmissibility of the annexation of land by force. The only other option is military force.

In my opinion the aforementioned resolution does not commit us to anything. It means the restoration of Arab sovereignty over the occupied territories. It is also the real solution that will inevitably lead to joining the occupied Arab territories with Jordan in a confederation that guarantees equalities among the people of t he East and West Banks of Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

[Al-Shubul] A number of Palestinian figures, including Ilyas Frayj, intend to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The names of these figures have been mentioned on numerous occasions. Are you coordinating among yourselves inside?

[Al-Shawwa] I was not among those invited to take part in the political seminar in the United States or to meet George Shultz. Moreover, there is no coordination between me, Ilyas Frayj, or anyone else on these matters.

[Al-Shubul] You were among the first to advocate making contacts with Israeli authorities. This raised the protest of many people. What is your opinion of oficial Palestinian-Israeli contacts?

[Al-Shawwa] The aim of the occupation authorities in meeting with Palestinians inside the homeland is to investigate their opinions and measure the inclination of Arab public opinion there. I affirm that contacts between the PLO and the occupation authorities will not resolve the problem because the Palestinan people both inside and outside the homeland have the final say in any proposed solution.

OPEC Affairs

Chairman Says Reports of Surplus 'Wrong'

LD070439 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2224 GMT 6 Oct 87

[Text] Rilwanu Lukman, the Nigerian minister of petroleum and current OPEC chairman, has denied reports that oil production surplus is greater than 3 million oil barrels per day and has asserted that such reports are wrong.

He pointed out that the 3-member OPEC committee that includes himself and the Venezuelan and Indonesian petroleum ministers will succeed in gathering all necessary data on oil production before the next OPEC meeting, which is due to be held later this year.

AP, which carried the report, asserted that the Kingdom is the biggest producer in the world and that it was Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, who urged the establishment of such a committee to protect OPEC oil prices.

The Nigerian petroleum minister was quoted as saying that the 3-member OPEC committee will return to the Kingdom at the end of its tour to several Gulf countries.

Saudi Ministry Denies Giving Price Cuts

LD071453 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Oct (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to prices set by OPEC and has not given discounts of any kind on any of its sales. This was stated by a responsible source in the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources to SPA in the course of a reply to news agency reports yesterday evening concerning this.

The source added: On the other hand, the statement by his excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, following the meeting between the custodian of the two holy mosques with the members of the OPEC 3-member committee, is clear and frank and cannot be misinterpreted or distorted as it was by *United Press International*. The custodian of the two holy mosques did not criticize OPEC members who, according to the above-mentioned agency, have failed in their committment to the agreement reached by the Organization 4 months ago to stabilize prices.

Indonesian Minister on Planned OPEC Meeting

LD081013 Kuwait KUNA in English 0912 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 8 (KUNA)—The upcoming ministerial OPEC meeting will confront major problems represented in convincing Iraq to abide by its production quota and setting up more efficient monitoring body entrusted with following up members' commitment to their production quotas, according to Indonesian oil minister.

"It won't be an easy meeting" Dr. Subroto told KUNA before leaving here yesterday, "due to the problem of Iraq's non-abidance by its quotas of 1.433 million barrels per day [m.b/d] as well as the problem of the monitoring body."

Dr. Subroto, who was on a visit to the country among a ministerial OPEC delegation, disclosed that when OPEC ministers decided upon the necessity of sticking to the production level of 16.6 m.b/d they had taken into account the possibility of exceeding allocated production quotas by some member states.

Various oil reports pointed out that OPEC's official production ceiling was exceeded by 2-2.5 m.b/d during last August, in addition to present assurances that the organization's total production is still exceeded, however, it is noteworthy that oil market has not witnessed any increase in oil prices.

Dr. Subroto contended that OPEC ministers would not discuss the issue of changing the official oil price which stood at 18 U.S. dollars since last February.

Despite his confirmation that the pricing structure, which he described as "good", shall be sticked to, Subroto did not exclude the possibility of discussing official pricing of OPEC oils by member states.

Price differences between OPEC oils will not be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of price's oil ministers, Subroto added.

Responding to a query, the Indonesian minister said reducing or increasing the level of OPEC"s total production hinges on the volume of oil production in the world market during the last quarter of the current year, the oil reservoir, in addition to expectations regarding the extent of demand on oil in the first quarter of next year.

All members seek to obtain surplus revenues from their oil production, including Indonesia, Subroto said but "we do not know if the price increase is really in the interest of the organization's objectives."

"We have to take into consideration the world economic situation wher deciding on such an issue", he concluded.

Algeria

Ibrahimi Addresses UN General Assembly

LD080945 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, has delivered a speech before the 42d session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

At the beginning of his speech, he saluted the agreement reached in principle between the USSR and the U.S. concerning the withdrawal and elimination of medium- and short-range weapons. He called for negotiations to gradually eliminate strategic weapons and to ban nuclear tests and chemical weapons. He stated that disarmament, the easing of tension, and the promotion of security should cover the entire Mediterranean basin.

Speaking of Algeria's efforts for peace, he said Algeria has pursued this line in the Arab Maghreb out of firm conviction that this region has no option or future other than in unity.

He said that President Chadli Bendjedid has taken the initiative of consulting with leaders of the Arab Maghreb to reach yet another state of Maghreb unity, that is, economic integration and political consultation stemming from the treaty of fraternity and accord concluded by Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi said, with regards to the Western Sahara conflict, which continues to be the basic obstacle to a unified Arab Maghreb structure, that Algeria salutes the joint initiative of the UN secretary general and the current OAU chairman to send a technical team to define the necessary means for holding a plebiscite organized and supervised by the UN and OAU.

The head of Algerian diplomacy also touched on several other matters which continue to occupy the attention of the world public and international organizations and agencies. He reiterated Algeria's firm positions on the Middle East question, the Gulf crisis, the South Africa situation, and other issues of liberation in the world.

Chad

President Habre Interviewed by Egyptian Paper

AB081208 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Interview with President Hissein Habre by Badr al-Din Adam, Egyptian newspaper *Al-Akhbar* editor in chief [title as heard] in Ndjamena on 4 October—editor's questions are in Arabic followed by French translation]

[Excerpts] [Adam] Your Excellency Mr President, since assuming power you have achieved several things, especially in the fields of national reconciliation and in restoring stability and security in the country. Citizens inside the country are living in peace and this is quite evident to any foreigner visiting Chad. Could you give us further details concerning this?

[Habre] In fact, in 1982 the situation in this country, Chad, was to say at the least catastrophic. First of all, the country was torn into pieces by many armed groups, each of which reigned supreme in the area it controlled. A lack of security prevailed throughout the country; movement inside the country was almost impossible; the economy was dead; trade was nonexistent; and government administration, as it is known today, did not exist. This prompted some observers at the time to say that Chad was an (?empty state). [Passage omitted]

Thanks to God, we have been able to achieve a great deal with the meager means at our disposal. The international community helped us in this. This is because we not only had to cope with the political situation we inherited from the war, but we also had to contend with the drought, the locust invasion, and the rinderpest plague. So we had to fight on many fronts at the same time, and, thanks to God, we made some giant strides in solving these problems.

Today peace and security (?reign in the country), farmers can cultivate their cotton, traders can move about everywhere in the nation, the civil service is functioning, and sociocultural activities—education, health, and so on—have taken off. In short, we have set out on the path of development and reconstruction and we intend to continue on this path to consolidate these achievements. [Passage omitted]

[Adam] Mr President, what motivated you to completely destroy [Libya's] Matan al-Sarra military base? Did you use new tactics in this military operation?

[Habre] First of all, I would like to tell you what the Libyan military bases around the Chad-Libya border or inside Chadian territory represent for Libya. These bases were constructed right in the middle of a desert in regions devoid of vegetation and people. These are bases that were constructed for the purpose of attacking Chad, for invading and occupying Chad. This is the case of the Matan al-Sarra base, and that of Aozou, in addition to those in the west. They are exactly like warships in the middle of an ocean: Their sole aim is to destroy.

It is from these bases that the Libyan Air Force intervened in Chad, destroying villages and killing women, children, young, and old, destroying our schools, our dispensaries, our mosques. And for more than 15 years, the Libyans have been attacking us—killing—and we thought it wise to use our right of hot pursuit to destroy the Matan al-Sarra base. We have no objective other than to destroy a base from which Libya carries out its aggression. So we exercised our legitimate right of hot pursuit; we achieved our objective—to destroy the base—and we returned home.

[Adam] (?In view of the success) achieved at the Matan al-Sarra base, do you intend to carry out similar operations against other Libyan bases?

[Habre] What we are looking for is peace and not war. We would prefer to have peace between Libya and Chad. If the war continues, each side would naturally, in accordance with its capabilities, try to defeat the other. That is the law of war, [words indistinct] especially when we are acting in self-defense. [Adam] Mr President, the Chadian action at Matan al-Sarra has brought clear reactions from Libya and certain Arab countries. These reactions have prompted Libya to mobilize its troops to avenge this action. How do you view this Libyan operation?

[Habre] In fact, I find these reactions quite strange. It is just as though it is in the Libyans' minds, just as it is in the minds of those that support them, that Libya has the right to come and occupy Chad, construct bases, to wage war, and to destroy Chad, but that Chad for its part has no right to respond to this Libyan aggression.

I find this reasoning quite strange and I find this sort of reaction illogical; it is irrational, nonsensical, and unreasonable. These are unfair, subjective, sentimental, and racist reactions. So Chad has only scorn for them.

[Adam] Mr President, how do you view the present situation following Al-Qadhdhafi's recruitment of 1,500 mercenaries from Walid Junblatt's movement, as well as other dissidents from Yasir 'Arafat's organization and other similar organizations?

[Habre] You know, Al-Qadhdhafi normally recruits and uses mercenaries. Here in Chad, we have had to fight against this international (?corps)—Sudanese, Nigerois, Malians, and Tunisians. Al-Qadhdhafi has always used the services of these mercenaries. Presently, we have in our prisons mercenaries of various nationalities. We are therefore not surprised that he has recruited Lebanese and Palestinian mercenaries whom he wants to use to fight against Chad.

What is rather surprising is the fact that these Palestinians and Lebanese responded to his call. The Palestinians, instead of fighting the Zionists, instead of fighting for their own freedom, have now decided to act in the service of Al-Qadhdhafi to fight against the freedom of the Chadian people. This is what is shocking.

[Adam] Mr President, I have spent more than 1 week in Ndjamena. I have heard from Chadian radio on (?reactions) of certain Arab countries. What do you say to these countries?

[Habre] It is true that a certain number of Arab countries—and they are not many—have (?taken sides) with the Libyan regime. Some have also even promised direct assistance to the Libyan regime. This is the case for Syria, for example, which has sent mercenaries particularly to aid the Air Force and Army, and who participated in the fighting at Aozou. The reasons [words indistinct]. Some have taken sides because they fear Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorism; they want to please him. Others may have done it because of (?money) and others for racist reasons.

But the fact still remains—and we are saying to these countries—that they have adopted the wrong position. By siding with the aggresser and thus defying Islamic solidarity as well as Afro-Arab solidarity, they have (?moved in the wrong) direction. And we hope they will change their position.

[Adam] Mr President, since coming to power, you have (?beamed) your policies toward Arab countries and now certain Arab countries have been conniving with Libya. Will this have an influence on your immediate and future policies toward the Arabs?

[Habre] First of all, I cannot speak of a global Arab policy or position. I have friends in the Arab world. I assure you that they support us. They are for the good cause, they are for justice. And there are friends of Libya. We therefore take into account the position of each.

But I must say that in the Arab world we have more friends than the Libyans and obviously, we intend to take note of the partisan attitude—which is contrary to the right cause, contrary to Islamic solidarity, contrary to Afro-Arab solidarity—of Libya's accomplices in the aggression launched against us.

[Adam] Mr President, the OAU is trying to find a solution to the Chad-Libya conflict. You recently participated in the Lusaka meeting that the Libyan leader did not attend. What do you think about the OAU's prospects in its mediation and what is your view concerning the OAU's position towards the International Court of Justice?

[Habre] First of all, I must congratulate it for the efforts made within the framework of the ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict—chaired by [Gabonese] President El Hadj Omar Bongo—and also for efforts made by the current OAU chairman, [Zambian] President Kaunda. Chad is sincerely and loyally cooperating with the OAU and is trying to facilitate the OAU's task as much as possible of trying to solve this issue.

Having said this, I would like to state that OAU efforts have always run into bad faith and intransigence from the Libyan side. Libya has always sought to sabotage OAU efforts. Libya has refused to participate in various meetings of the OAU ad hoc committee. While the OAU's last resolution on the Chad-Libya conflict deliberately demanded that the Libyan and Chadian heads of state participate in the OAU ad hoc committee's deliberations, Al-Qadhdhafi refused to attend and by his attitude continues to block the committee's efforts. All

we can say is that we hope the OAU's efforts succeed; Chad will only be too ready to facilitate these efforts although [words indistinct] since Libya is apparently opposed to a peaceful solution.

I now come to the second part of your question concerning the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. The issue here is one of accepting a peaceful solution. Whether through mediation, through arbitration, through the OAU, or through the ICJ, if both Libya and Chad do not exhibit goodwill and a determination to seek a peaceful settlement, it will be difficult to find a solution. For the ICJ to be able to issue a ruling on this affair, Chad and Libya must agree to submit the case to the court and abide by its decision. But Libya has always refused to go to the court. That is the problem.

[Adam] Mr President, reports say Goukouni Oueddei and Acheikh ibn Oumar are trying to reconcile in order to reconstitute an opposition to your regime. How do you assess this situation? Apart from Libya, are there other African countries that support this opposition?

[Habre] In actual fact, I don't know whether one should really speak of opposition in the normal sense of the word. In this affair, the opposition that you are referring to is an integral part of a Libyan plan of aggression and occupation of Chad. So, these persons are in the pay of Libya. They are supported and paid by Libya; they are part of Al-Qadhdhafi's army in its war against Chad. Al-Qadhdhafi, who sometimes acts personally, has been trying to get them to unite.

I want to tell you that prior to the 1 September aniversary in Libya, that is on 28 or 29 August, Al-Qadhdhafi presided over a meeting that gathered Acheikh, the Sudanese, the so-called Sudanese Al-Mahdi, the Ugandan Yoweri Museveni, the Ghanaian Jerry Rawlings, and a Burkinabe minister. At that meeting, Al-Qadhdhafi sought to reconcile his henchmen. Then the baton was handed over to Burkina Faso, which is fully playing the Libyan game.

All these steps are an integral part of Libya's strategy to recruit people; whether these people are associated with Walid Junblatt or whether they are Chadians, it is all part of the same strategy. Of course, there are unfortunately Chadians among them. For us, as part of our reconciliation policy, we continue to [words indistinct] so that they can return home and free themselves from the game of the Libyan conqueror.

[Adam] Mr President, what will be the fate of Libyan prisoners of war, especially since Al-Qadhdhafi stated that Chad has not taken any Libyan prisoners?

[Habre] In fact, the fate of Libyan prisoners of war captured by Chad is not at all enviable. This is because of their own country, because the very man who sent them to Chad, has now disowned them. This means that Chad will simply consider them as mercenaries and accord them the type of punishment that is meted out to mercenaries. Since Libya does not acknowledge that there is any war between Libya and Chad, since Libya does not acknowledge we have taken its men prisoner, it is therefore Chad's right to consider these prisoners simply as mercenaries.

But this is not our position or our attitude, because we must make a distinction between the Libyan people and the Al-Qadhdhafi regime. We consider these prisoners as children of Libya. They are our brothers, even though Al-Qadhdhafi forced them to fight against us. We shall treat them well and on the day the war between Libya and Chad is over, they will go back home. [Passage omitted]

Egypt

Iraqi Presidential Envoy Sa'dun Shakir Arrives

NC072110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Sa'dun Shakir, Iraqi RCC member and envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Cairo tonight for a brief visit.

Dr Ahmad Salamah, minister of local government, Samir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Najm, head of the Iraqi Interests Section in Cairo, and Iraqi Embassy staff received the Iraqi guest at the airport.

Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC081355 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, congratulating him on having been unanimously elected to the presidency by the Egyptian people for a second term.

The message was delivered by President Saddam Husayn's envoy Sa'dun Shakir during his meeting with the president today. Samir Najm, head of the Iraqi Interests Section in Cairo, was also present.

Ceausescu Congratulates Mubarak on Reelection

NC081509 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 8 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a cable of greetings from President Ceausescu of Romania on President Mubarak's election for a second term.

President Ceausescu said the result of Monday's referendum expressed the will of the Egyptian people.

In the name of the people of Romania and in his own name, President Ceausescu sent good wishes to President Mubarak for continued health and happiness and wished him success in carrying out his responsibilities to realise progress and prosperity for the Egyptian people.

The Romanian president said he was confident that the "spirit of understanding and the relations of solid friendship and frutiful cooperation" between the two countries will witness more development in future, at the bilateral and international levels, for the sake of the two people and in consolidation of the cause of peace and understanding and cooperation in the world.

Delegation Leaves for Geneva Tabah Arbitration

NC090937 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, head of the Foreign Ministry's legal department, and Major General Faruq Labib, member of the Egyptian defense team on the Tabah case, left Cairo this morning for Geneva, where they will join Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi. Al-'Arabi represents Egypt before the international board of arbitration, which is examining the case.

In a predeparture statement, Ambassador Mahir said that Egypt has a "very strong" case. He noted that all legal, historical, and geographical documents prove the Tabah area to be 100 percent Egyptian. Based on our examination of the first Israeli defense memorandum submitted to the international arbitration tribunal, it is clear that it lacks any solid grounds, he stated, noting that this had made the preparation of the second Egyptian memorandum on the case easier. We had no difficulty refuting the Israeli memorandum, which was based on "slight and weak" grounds, he added.

Ambassador Mahir noted that Ambassador al-'Arabi will present Egypt's second defense memorandum to the international panel of arbitration on Monday. When both the Egyptian and Israeli memorandums have been submitted to the panel, the remaining points outlined in the arbitral compromise, signed by the two countries, will be discussed by the panel, he said.

These points include setting a date for the hearings and the testimonies of witnesses and experts and arranging for a field visit to the Tabah area, he added. He pointed out that both Egypt and Israel have the right to submit a third memorandum, noting that in this case the arbitration would extend the deadline for both sides by a further 2 months, for preparation.

It should be recalled that Egypt and Israel submitted their first memorandums on 12 May during the first session held by the arbitration panel. Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, head of the Egyptian defense team on the Tabah issue, is also Egypt's chief delegate to the UN European headquarters in Geneva.

Opposition Party Leaders Leave for Khartoum

NC090647 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2313 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Socialist Labor Party leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri, NPUG Leader Khalid Muhyi al-Din, and Socialist Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad left Cairo for Khartoum tonight. They will spend several days in Sudan. During their visit they will attend the national group's public conference to consolidate efforts to halt the Gulf war.

The 3-day conference, which opens tomorrow, will be chaired by Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, former chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council. [Passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Discusses Role of Media, Arab Ties

JN062040 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Oct 87 pp 1, 20

[Interview with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif by Muhammad Mustafa in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Mustafa] What is in your opinion the responsibility of the mass media toward the recent acts of terrorism in Egypt?

[Al-Sharif] We believe that the extraneous acts of terrorism in Egypt must be given their normal proportions without exaggeration. The European satellite transmits to us scores of acts of terrorism everywhere in the world. What I want to stress is that terrorism is not a trait of Egyptian society. Therefore, we must give it its normal proportions without exaggeration. We must present the facts to the Egyptian citizen and urge him positively to confront this terrorism so as not to adopt a passive stand on it.

Citizens are helpful in controlling terrorism. We must distinguish between terrorism and extremism. Terrorism is an illegal act against the country's security and stability. Extremism is being extreme in thoughts. Here is the role of the media, through which we address extremists, hold dialogue with them, and treat them through illumination and rectification. We are a Muslim state. We distinguish between religion and extremism. We call for religious values. Moreover, this call is a pillar in the Egyptian media. Also, we must differentiate between adherence to religious values and extremism.

[Mustafa] Ten years after the launching of a partisan press in Egypt, what is your assessment of this experiment?

[Al-Sharif] I can affirm that the experiment has been completely successful. The partisan press has become one of the pillars of the Egyptian media. Practice has proven that it is a 100-percent positive experience. Coming after a period of suppression, naturally there were sharp opinions and turmoil. After a while, public

opinion, which is following this new experience, has read, heard, and learned the facts. Therefore, citizens must be presented with facts.

Hence, I say that the experience of the partisan press has succeeded irrespective of any excesses, or dialogue between one writer and another deviating from the acknowledged course. Despite all this, the partisan press has been a success and is one of the pillars of freedom and democracy in Egypt.

[Mustafa] Your Excellency Minister, when will the mass media begin to serve all political parties?

[Al-Sharif] They indeed serve all parties. We did not and will not categorize the Egyptians. We will continue to maintain a national equilibrium in this society. Regardless of his party, every specialist, scientist, or holder of an opinion has the right to discuss society's political, economic, or social problems. We will set no directions because the mass media is for all Egyptians. In addition, there are other means to express opinions.

[Mustafa] Egypt is still being subjected to ferocious onslaughts by counter mass media abroad. What are your ministry's efforts to confront these onslaughts?

[Al-Sharif] Allow me to differ with you over using the word ferocious. This word is too strong. However, it is natural that Egypt would be the focus of dialogue and debates. Egypt is the key to war, peace, and stability in the region. It is also the key to the Arab nation and Africa. It carries weight in the Nonaligned Movement. It is natural for Egypt to have this role and prominence. Hence, it is the axis of discussions. Egypt has to move continuously in the field of development.

Egypt has an economic policy because it is working to achieve genuine development. Egypt has armed forces and military capabilities which must be subject to discussion. If any normal event takes place in Egypt it would be discussed. However, I affirm that there is no extremism in Egypt such as that which they talk about. There is no economic deterioration in Egypt as they claim. There is no social deterioration in Egypt like that which they sometimes describe as indifference.

Freedom of press and expression allows the foreign press to come to Egypt and allows photos to go out. This freedom in Egypt allowed those who wish to go deep into the roots of the Egyptian society to do so without control. Let me ask: What would our image be like if there were a totalitarian, individual, or iron-fisted rule in Egypt, and if mouths were muffled? Egypt's image would look like a beautiful and decorated catalogue. Everyone must know that the days of the media of decoration and beautiful pictures are gone.

Today's media is realistic. We present the problems which cause us suffering. In the past, we used to hide these problems. Now everybody can see President Mubarak explaining all our problems to the people with all sincerity and frankness. This must be reflected in the foreign media in view of Egypt's vanguard role. Hence I say they are not ferocious campaigns, but normal, self-imposed ones.

We cannot forget that some view our democracy as a danger which must be attacked. Others see that our economy has transcended the difficult times and that tourism has flourished. So they try to highlight terrorism although our country witnesses the least amount of terrorism and extremism. They are trying in vain to curb the influx of tourism by distorting our image. Some are monitoring investments being brought into Egypt and try to curtail them through casting doubts on Egypt's security.

[Mustafa] In your position, how do you evaluate Egyptian-Arab relations? What about the role of the Egyptian media in consolidating these relations?

[Al-Sharif] Egyptian-Arab relations have achieved tangible progress since Mubarak's assumption of power and since the call for halting media campaigns. I consider this a positive stand by Egypt. Evaluating Egptian-Arab relations on the basis of the past 6 years, we find that these relations have gone beyond the stage of embassies and ambassadors.

Egypt's flag is present in the heart of every Arab citizen. The Egyptian media are playing a harmonious coordinated role with Arab brothers in the Arab world. There is Egyptian-Arab coordination. The Egyptian media support all Arab causes.

[Mustafa] On the other hand, do the Arab media play a reciprocal positive role?

[Al-Sharif] All the mass media in the fraternal Arab countries are playing the same role. Our Arab media contacts are excellent. The experience of the Saudi fair in Cairo is the best proof of that. So are the [ICO] summit which was held in Kuwait and the recent Yemeni celebrations. There are many other occasions on which the support of the Arab media for the Egyptian media is manifested in all fields. [Passage omitted]

Libya

Confrontation With U.S. Linked to Arab Unity

LD081716 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Commenting on statements by Charles Redman, U.S. State Department spokesman, on 7 October 1987 concerning U.S. opposition to Arab unity and the unity

efforts between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Algeria, a spokesman of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stated:

The U.S. Administration is accustomed to unjustifiably placing itself in the position of having the right to dictate its will to the world and to interfere in people's affairs. The U.S. Administration on this basis gives itself the right to veto Arab unity, which is the legitimate and sacred demand of the Arab nation's masses.

However, the United States does not object to using methods of warning and hidden threats for any Arab state heading toward unity.

U.S. tyranny has increased to the point that the U.S. Administration thinks it possesses absolute, universal power to control peoples' destinies. This tyranny must thus be faced and fought and its conspiracies must be foiled day and night to achieve Arab unity.

The United States knows that states today obey the firm criteria adopted by the international community in its international charters and organizations, summed up by the extent of support for the causes of liberation and the unity of peoples against apartheid, economic exploitation, disinformation, and official state terrorism.

If we apply these criteria to the policy of the current U.S. Administration, the latter must be officially expelled from the international community once the people have effectively rejected it.

The U.S. Administration knows that Arab unity concerns the Arabs and that it must not interfere in what does not concern it. The Arab nation should also be aware that to achieve its legitimate aspirations, with Arab unity at the forefront, it is necessary to accept confrontation with the United States.

This requires active resistance to U.S. interests and the total rejection of its attempts to impose its influence and hegemony. The Arab nation has no other alternative.

MENA Reports Air Force 'Discontent'

NC082152 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—According to reliable Libyan sources, the state of discontent and resentment among Libyan Air Force officers is heightening after reports leaked that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been using Syrian pilots.

Al-Akhbar newspaper notes in tomorrow's edition Al-Qadhdhafi's promotion last May of Libyan Air Force officers in a bid to contain recurring attempts by these officers to flee the country. This policy, the newspaper adds, led to mutinies by other Libyan Armed Forces personnel. Some 1,000 officers and enlisted men in the Sarah area refused to engage in combat unless they were promoted like the Air Force personnel.

Observers have affirmed that Al-Qadhdhafi's use of Syrian pilots will inevitably increase tension within the Libyan Armed Forces, especially among Air Force personnel.

Meanwhile, in tomorrow's edition, *Al-Jumhuriyah* reports that Col al-Qadhdhafi recently ordered the arrest of many Libyan officers and men who had participated in military operations in Chad but had failed to check Chadian advances. The officers and servicemen were arrested at (Al-Darfiyah) camp near Banghazi and underwent immediate interrogation by military intelligence personnnel.

According to the newspaper, a reliable Libyan source has revealed that some Libyan military leaders [words indistinct] have carried out investigations and issued orders to arrest some officers and men [words indistinct] along with senior operation commanders in connection with Al-Qadhdhafi's direct responsibility for the military failure in northern Chad.

Leader Receives Pakistani Islamic Visitors

LD081631 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Maulana Fazlur Rahman-Mufti Mahmud, secretary general of the Pakistani Conference of the Ulema of Islam, and his accompanying delegation.

Mauritania

Multisectorial Agreement Signed With Italy

AB090745 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] On 7 October Italy and Mauritania signed a major agreement regarding the implementation of the multisectorial program. The agreement mainly covers water supply, small-scale fishing, and food security projects. It was signed by the secretary general of the Mauritanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and by the director general of the Italian Cooperation Agency for Development.

Morocco

EEC Commission President Delors Begins Talks

LD081923 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpt] EEC Commission President Jacques Delors began his talks today with Moroccan officials. He conferred with Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki and had tete-a-tete talks with Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, followed by an enlarged working session attended by the delegations of the two sides.

Jacques Delors' talks with Dr Azzedine Laraki were an opportunity to review all relations of cooperation between Morocco and the EEC, both in the trade and financial spheres as well as in the fisheries sector.

The prime minister noted Morocco's stance on EEC proposals and reaffirmed the excellent relations between Morocco and the EEC. Dr Azzedine Laraki stressed the need to take into consideration our country's legitimate interests during the talks on cooperation between Morocco and the EEC. [Passage omitted]

Meets King Hassan II

LD090924 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpt] At the royal palace in Rabat this evening, His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Jacques Delors, president of the EEC Commission. This meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mohamed Sekkat, minister of state for EEC; and Abdelmalik Charkaoui, his majesty's ambassador in Brussels.

Mr Jacques Delors also met this afternoon with members of his majesty's government. He met with Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada and reviewed with him existing relations between Morocco and the EEC and ways to develop and vary Moroccan exports to Europe as well as to attract European investments to Morocco.

Mr Berrada gave the European official a comprehensive review of Morocco's financial and economic situation and its efforts to overcome financial difficulties and pursue development. [Passage omitted]

Sudan

Small-scale Demonstrations Continue in Khartoum

LD090909 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 8, (SUNA)—Demonstrations have been continued for the fourth day in the national capital but in small scales, a police source told the daily *Al-Ayam* published today said.

[Words indistinct] 66 demonstrators were arrested on charges of staging rioting, the source said adding that great number of the arrested were set free.

Demonstration in the national capital and other regions flared up following the government had announced the new economic [words indistinct] new increases of commodities price.

10 Killed by Mines at Lelo, Ahmad Ajak

EA081850 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Ten enemy soldiers have been killed in two different places by antipersonnel mines planted by SPLA forces of northern Upper Nile zonal command headquarters, under the overall command of Major Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander of northern Upper Nile.

Correspondents say that three of the enemy soldiers were killed at Lelo Garrison on 20, 23 and 24 September 1987 respectively. The mines were laid in place under the supervision of Lieutenant (Majok Mamer Atem) of the zonal headquarters of the engineering unit.

The other seven enemy soldiers were killed at Ahmad Ajak area near Malakal. Correspondents say that the Al-Sadiq troops at Ahmad Ajak were scared by the antipersonnel mines and they withdrew back to Malakal, but were ordered to return to their bases by the commander in charge in Malakal. [Passage omitted]

Tunisia

Bourguiba Grants Release of 700 Prisoners

LD081220 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba held a working meeting this morning at the Presidential Palace in Carthage with Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, prime minister and minister of the interior, and Amor Chedli, minister director of the Presidential Office. [Passage omitted]

The celebration of Evacuation Day by the Tunisian people was among the subjects discussed. The prime minister and minister of interior announced that the supreme combatant will personally patronize this celebration to preserve the sublime memory of the happy crowning of a determining stage in the struggle of the nation's leader to free the homeland and enable it to gain total sovereignty.

To mark this occasion the supreme combatant has decided to grant the conditional release of 700 prisoners. [Passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

UN Head Reportedly Rules Out Gulf Visit

JN080716 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Oct (WAM)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that he will not visit the Gulf region at present to hold contacts with the Iraqi and Iranian sides. He will instead ask the two sides to send their representatives to hold discussions with him in New York after he receives instructions from the Security Council concerning his peace mission.

In a statement to *Al-Ittihad*, he noted that he cannot travel during this period because he has a great deal of work at the UN headquarters. He noted that he is still awaiting Security Council instructions on renewing his mission. He described the current situation as one of anticipation and waiting.

Kuwait

Paper Calls USSR Gulf Policy 'Ambiguous'

LD090905 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 9 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper editorial described the Soviet policy toward the Gulf conflict as "ambiguous and contradictory."

Commenting on the Soviet stands, *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* said Moscow expresses regret for the war and apparently suffers for its eruption, but does nothing to bring it to an end.

The Kremlin supports the Security Council and Perez de Cuellar's efforts to convince Iran to cooperate, but simultaneously, it is with Tehran against the U.S. and its fleets, with the Resolution 598 and against any sanctions against the party which rejects the resolution, the paper added.

The Soviet Union "forgot" Iran's goals behind continuation of war and "remembered" its long border with it, and concluded oil agreements and bargains to motivate Tehran to heed peace calls, but in vain, *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* said.

Addressing the Soviet Union from a position of "real friendship", the paper urged Moscow to reconsider its present policy which "exacerbates tension and escalates crises."

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Charges on Mecca Victims Denied

LD080531 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Oct (SPA)—What was reported today by IRNA concerning the fact that [Mohammad] Khatami, Iran's minister of culture and Islamic guidance, has presented a report to the Iranian Cabinet on the efforts exerted for the return of a number of Iranian corpses since Saudi Arabia has so far refrained from handing them over, as the agency alleged, has been refuted.

An official source has told SPA it is not surprising that Iran's rulers insist on continuing deceptions and calumnies in their declarations through their mass media. However, what is indeed strange is their belief that there are people who believe them.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has declared several times through an official source that it has waited 2 months for the arrival of Iranian envoys to identify the corpses of their citizens, in conformity with official evidence, to prove the victim's Iranian citizenship in accordance to what was agreed upon with Iran's officials.

The source further said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is thus not responsible for their inability to give the official evidence required. It is neither logical nor reasonable to arbitrarily hand over corpses that might belong to nations other than Iran, regardless of what the Iranians do, and without any reason, to escalate the corpse-claiming campaign.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Interviewed by AL-SAFIR

NC080957 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Oct 87 pp 1, 9

[Interview with President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Muhammad Mashmushi in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Mashmushi] It seems that the plan to reunify Yemen was suspended when it came to the point of signing the unitary state's constitution.

A: Why was the constitution not signed?

B: Were there any external or internal factors impeding the completion of unity and if so what are they?

C: Did the events that took place in the southern part [of the homeland] on 13 January 1986 affect the plan to declare unity?

D: How far did your endeavors for the sake of national reconciliation in the southern part go and will these endeavors' success or failure affect the plan?

[Salih] The plan to reunify Yemen has not been suspended. It will not be suspended because the issue of unity is of major importance to our Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland. Officials in the two parts continue their efforts to press ahead with the unitary state's constitution and see the process through. This could be attained through measures defined in the unity agreements between the leaders of the two parts.

There is no doubt that the regrettable incidents in the southern part in January 1986 did have a negative effect on the whole situation in the south and on efforts to achieve unity between the two parts. However, certain obstacles to resuming these efforts have been overcome. It would serve the interests of the Yemeni people in both parts of the homeland to reestablish their unity.

[Mashmushi] Why has the YAR not been accepted in the GCC although it is a state on the Arabian Peninsula? Do you intend to again seek the YAR's membership in the GCC? Are the reasons for the YAR's nonacceptance political or economic or what?

[Salih] The YAR has not asked to join the GCC. The YAR has excellent relations with every GCC state.

[Mashmushi] The YAR has played a distinguished role in patching up Arab differences, whether in the Gulf war, the Lebanese war, or between Egypt and Libya.

A: How successful have these efforts been in attaining their objective and what obstacles have they encountered?

B: Do you intend to play a greater role in this regard, particularly since the YAR's moderate policy qualifies it to take on such a role?

[Salih] The YAR's role in the ongoing efforts to restore Arab solidarity is dictated by its sense of pan-Arab duty towards the Arab nation. The YAR will continue to play its role as long as the Arab interest so dictates.

[Mashmushi] The YAR takes a neutral stand on the conflict between the two blocs in the Middle East in general and in the Gulf in particular.

A: Why did you postpone your visit to the United States and what are your conditions for this visit to take place?

B: Do you intend to visit the Soviet Union in the near future?

C: Does your stand reflect positively on the extent of aid to Yemen?

[Salih] My visit to the United States was postponed because the date was unsuitable. The visit to the Soviet Union will depend on its timing.

[Mashmushi] It has been noticed that there has been a big improvement in relations between the YAR and both Ethiopia and Djibouti and that the heads of these states have paid frequent visits to Sanaa.

A: How does your country view the problems of the Horn of Africa, given that this is a point of international conflict in the region?

B: Is the YAR acting as mediator between Ethiopia and Sudan and among Ethiopia, Somalia, and the Eritrean revolution?

C: Do you expect a revival of the conference of the Red Sea littoral states which the city of Ta'izz hosted in the past?

[Salih] The YAR's relations with the states in question are the result of a variety of factors and ties. The YAR views the problems of the Horn of Africa as vestiges of the imperialist era. It believes that the countries in the region should deal with these problems in a political manner and maintain good-neighborly relations.

If the YAR finds that there is a need to play a role to promote and strengthen relations among the region's states, then it will not hesitate to exploit its good relations with all to achieve this end. We leave the question of the Red Sea conference to any state that might wish to revive it and considers that circumstances warrant it.

[Mashmushi] It is said that there are approximately 4 million Yemeni expatriates abroad. What policy do you have for attracting these expatriates' savings into development projects in Yemen?

[Salih] It is not true that there are 4 million Yemeni expatriates. However, the YAR Government is making continuous efforts to reap the maximum benefit from the efforts of its expatriate sons abroad and to invest their savings and transfers in development projects.

Communique No 2,865 Details Combat 7-8 Oct

JN081758 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,865 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces stand as an impregnable fortress in defense of beloved Iraq in confronting the defeated Iranian regime's stupid insistence on continuing the war and aggression. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Iraq will exercise its firm, legitimate right to sever the Iranian regime's oil lifelines, whose revenue it uses to continue the war and aggression against our country and to disrupt regional security and stability. At 0930 [0630 GMT] this morning our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid against a very large maritime target south of Khark Island, dealing it an accurate and effective blow.

The number of combat missions carried out by our aircraft today over the Arabian Gulf waters and in the theaters of operation to inflict new losses on the remnants of aggressors totaled 123. All our aircraft then returned safely and triumphantly to base in God's care and protection.

2. With their heroic activities, our heroic units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted new losses on the Khomeyniites. The following was achieved:

a. Four enemy personnel killed.

b. One shovel [preceding word in English] burned and destroyed and its driver killed.

c. One medium machinegun destroyed and its personnel killed.

d. Two vehicles damaged.

e. One infantry position and one post destroyed and their occupants killed.

f. One ammunition dump blown up.

3. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector opened fire on enemy positions opposite them and achieved the following:

a. Killed nine enemy personnel.

b. Destroyed two 106-mm guns, two infantry positions, and one post, killing their occupants.

c. Damaged one vehicle.

4. One SPG-9, one shovel [preceding word in English], and one infantry position were destroyed and one amunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One enemy soldier was killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two enemy posts were destroyed and their occupants killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Using long-range artillery, the criminal enemy shelled Qal'at Dizah. The enemy shelling wounded seven civilians, including five children and one woman. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 October 1987

UN Told Al-Sulaymaniyah Shelled by Iran

JN071605 Baghdad INA in English 1546 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] United Nations, Oct. 7, INA—Iraq informed the U.N. Security Council today that the Iranian regime continues carrying out acts of aggression on purely civilian areas in Iraq.

In a letter submitted to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraqi Ambassador to the U.N. 'Ismat Kittani reported that Iranian aggressor forces last Saturday [3 October] bombarded residential areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah, which resulted in one child killed, two wounded, including one child, and damage to four houses.

Envoy Departs To Congratulate Egypt's Mubarak

JN071958 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] RCC Member Sa'dun Shakir, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, departed for Cairo this evening.

Before departure, Sa'dun Shakir told INA that he will convey leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings and wishes to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on his victory in the public referendum held the day before yesterday for a second presidential term.

Shamir Congratulates Mubarak on Reelection

TA091005 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has expressed the hope that the election of Husni Mubarak for a second term as president of Egypt will be for "the good of Israel and Egypt in achieving peace in our region."

On the eve of the holiday [7 October], Yitzhaq Shamir sent President Mubarak a congratulatory cable on his reelection and praised his contribution to the Egyptian people and to peace.

Herzog Scheduled To Pay Official Visit to U.S.

TA090800 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Excerpt] President Hayim Herzog is scheduled to make the first official state visit by an Israeli chief of state to the U.S. next month. He will proceed to Washington after visiting Denmark.

Bet Hanasi [president's residence] sources confirmed last night an Israel Radio report from Washington on the eve of Sukkoth that Herzog, who will complete his first term in May, will make the first ever presidential state visit in November. The official announcement is due to be made by both governments within a short time. [Passage omitted]

International Conference Threat to Government

TA071710 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Oct 87 p B1

[Yosef Harif commentary: "Shamir and Peres Are Waiting for Shultz"]

[Text] The issue of an international conference begins to look like a time bomb threatening the government. This was proved in the Cabinet session this week during which Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres reviewed his talks in the United States on the issue.

Peres believes that progress has been made toward implementing the idea of the conference. According to him, he realized as much in his talk with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Peres now expects U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, upon his arrival in Jerusalem in 2 weeks prior to his meeting with Shevardnadze, to raise "new ideas."

If Peres finds that Shultz and Shevardnadze may definitely arrive at an understanding, from his point of view there will no longer be any sense in remaining part of Shamir's government "in the absence of any chances for promoting the peace process."

If it is true, as sources in the Foreign Ministry believe, that the U.S. secretary of state is coming here not just to listen but also to make his voice heard, then his visit cannot at all be considered routine but rather a "dramatic" one in nature.

It seems that the prime minister also feels that the issue, both its external implications and, specifically, its internal ones, have this time, following Peres' visit in the United States, reached a particularly sensitive point.

When Peres finished his optimistic review to the Cabinet, Shamir observed: "We have heard why there are differences between us. What you consider an 'achievement' I do not. However, we will not hold a debate about it right now!"

He later told his colleagues that he saw no sense in dwelling only on the issue of the conference when the Cabinet agenda was filled with other important matters, such as the incidence of road accidents, the escape of terrorists from prison, and Finance Minister Moshe Nisim's review of his talks in Washington. We would not be wrong, however in saying that Shamir determined that a debate should not be held "right now" because he anticipated what might have happened in the Cabinet meeting hall.

This evaluation can be corroborated by remarks made by the prime minister in an internal consultation held in his office about the vice prime minister's "optimistic moves" that Peres regards as "progress."

Here is what Shamir said: "What progress is he talking about? Peres has built a theory that is hanging by a thread. There is nothing to it. Had we been forced to hold a debate about his review I would not have been able to stop myself from pointing out all the distortions and hair-splitting. He began interpreting Shevardnadze and then talked about an 'achievement.' 'Shevardnadze said that his conditions were not by way of an ultimatum and that any issue, including the inclusion of the PLO in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, could be discussed.'

One might have thought that Shevardnadze had met Peres halfway on the question of the PLO. There is nothing to the statement that 'any issue could be discussed.' Peres only forgot to mention that Shevardnadze added: 'But that is our position!' And this 'but' is very significant because, according to Shevardnadze, any Palestinian representation in a joint delegation with Jordan must be acceptable to the PLO, and the international conference must decide on self-determination for the Palestinians and the status of Jerusalem."

"Only recently," Shamir added, "the Jordanian foreign minister said that all the Arab countries and the Soviet Union hold a common position about the nature of the

conference and that the United States and Israel must accept this position as a whole. And, after all, this declaration contradicts what Peres claims to be Husayn's position."

"Why did the prime minister not voice these pertinent observations right there on the spot?"—one of his colleagues asked.

Shamir: "I do not want to bring down the government. I could have responded to Peres blow by blow, but I did not want to hold a debate because I am trying my best to preserve the national unity government."

Hence, it turns out that the international conference, which the prime minister and his colleagues treated as if it were dead, is not only alive and kicking, but, as the prime minister thinks, might also bring down the government.

Shultz must have heard from Peres about his talk with Shevardnadze. The question is what was the impression gained by Shultz in contrast with Shamir's utter skepticism. ("I learned to know the Soviets and I can say that I understand them better than others".) And what does the secretary of state think about the statement Shevardnadze reiterated to Shim'on Peres, that "there will be no peace without the Soviet Union and there will be no peace without an international conference."

This means that the Soviets will not tolerate any other political initiative in which they have no part.

Peres' position is clear: Husayn will not come to direct negotiations unless via an international conference. Peres apparently believes that the United States cannot influence Husayn to agree to negotiations with Israel within the "regional conference" proposed by Shamir. The argument in the Cabinet this week over whether to say "thanks" to Moscow for granting an exit permit to Ida Nudel (Peres versus Shamir) was not only confined to the Soviet "gesture." The argument runs much deeper, and Peres clearly illustrated that.

Whereas Shamir believes that Moscow has not changed and everything remains the same, Peres thinks that the Gorbachev era is different. He felt the lack of hostility in his talk with the Soviet foreign minister and believes that an understanding may be reached with Moscow regarding the peace process, including the resumption of diplomatic relations, Jewish emigration, and the exclusion of the PLO from negotiations with Jordan—namely, all those points that Peres also considered as prerequisites for the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the international conference.

Peres bases his position on Shevardnadze's remarks—which he also quoted at the Cabinet session—that "there is no element in the Soviet position that is not negotiable."

Shamir retorted: "What is such a statement worth when Shevardnadze is actually posing an ultimatum? Is the statement that without the Soviet Union and without an international conference there will not be peace in the region not an ultimatum? What business is it of the Soviet Union to impose a solution?"

Peres tends to believe in a possible change in the Soviet position. Shamir disagrees, seeing mainly the Soviet ultimatum and placing no importance in Moscow's verbal acrobatics. The foreign minister sees something genuine in what he heard from Eduard Shevardnadze, as he illustrated in his briefing to the Cabinet: "In the past the Soviets used to speak about realizing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, whose interpretation they regarded as being quite unambiguous: self-determination for the Palestinians. [Quotation marks as published]

This time Peres' ears caught a new tone: definitions must be found for ways to realize 242 and the path to self-determination. According to Peres' interpretation, this should be seen as a nearing to Husayn's position by Moscow. That is, to enable the inclusion of the Palestinians in the confederation with Jordan, without this necessarily being preceded by the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as in 'Arafat's demand.

Under these circumstances George Shultz' visit to Israel is due to be of great importance. Without any assistance from George Shultz, Peres will undoubtedly fail to convince Yitzhaq Shamir. But if the government has to be disbanded and new elections held, it will be convenient for him if the United States is on his side, not Shamir's.

The prime minister, other ministers, and senior officials have expressed the following view: "What can Shultz do anyway in the course of 24 hours in Israel?" That is a mistaken view. It is true that from the practical viewpoint, not much can be accomplished. But if Shultz tries to raise "new ideas" to enable the convening of the international conference, the unity government will have a different appearance from what it has had on the condition that Shultz' ideas are also acceptable to the Soviets.

The tension over what George Shultz is bringing here is affecting everyone. A short time ago he said: "The only thing the PLO wants is to destroy Israel, while the Soviets, who are incapable of being constructive, are encouraging the PLO and are linked to the worst of the despots and terrorists in the area." But what was said about the Soviets before the INF agreement does not necessarily reflect the administration's current position.

The same goes for another of Shultz' remarks made in May: "The United States is neutral in the dispute between Peres and Shamir over Israel's participation in

the international conference." Will Shultz, because of this neutrality, refrain from trying to give the prime minister advice in a personal talk?

The letter Shultz sent Shamir informing him of his impending arrival in Israel to receive honorary doctorates from Tel Aviv University and the Weizmann Institute says only that he anticipates meeting Shamir for a talk to "exchange ideas," and also that "I and the President continue to attribute the greatest importance to the process of achieving peace in the Middle East...we are still convinced that this process could be actualized in the best way through beginning direct talks as soon as possible, between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We are devoting ourselves to the achievement of this goal."

The prime minister has pointed that there is no mention of the international conference in Shultz' letter. And that is correct. The question is: Just what is concealed behind Shultz' statement that he anticipates an "exchange of ideas?" What ideas does he mean?

Peres avoided expanding on this in the Cabinet. He contented himself with commenting that he would prefer to let Shultz speak for himself.

The impression is that Peres, who met with Shultz twice, knows "something".

In the first talk the pair did not go into details on anything involving the international conference. What was said was that in the talk with Shevardnadze, Shultz intended to give the discussion on human rights (including Jewish emigration) precedence over that on the dismantling of missiles; the Soviets were prepared for this (both sides are hunting for "public relations," Shultz commented).

In the second talk Shultz addressed the matter of the peace process, disclosing that on the question of the Palestinian representation, he was working hard over a formula that would "satisfy Israel and King Husayn's requirements".

For the time being Shultz has not disclosed all the details, but, as far as is known here, his main intention is to offer the prime minister a signed U.S. guarantee aimed at making sure that the understandings achieved with Husayn, whose main points are that the international conference will not substitute for direct negotiations and that the conference will not have any authority to impose a solution, will be implemented. The same goes for the Palestinian representation, which would also have to be acceptable to Israel.

As Shultz' arrival approaches, the Prime Minister's Office has tried to probe the U.S. secretary of state's intentions. All the messages, people in Shamir's court are saying, bear witness to the fact that Shultz does not intend to harp on the international conference. Other sources have explained that "Shultz is very familiar with Shamir's firm stand on this, and as secretary of state he will not want to leave here with a failure."

In any event, as he has said to his close aides, the prime minister is perfectly calm. "I have been told that Shultz has no intention of altering his position. That is enough for me."

And if nobody knows just what Shultz is bringing to the "exchange of ideas" talk with Shamir, it is obvious what Shamir is bringing with him: "We are the ones who decide here! What can they force on us? I can imagine what the international conference would look like: the Soviet Union, China, the United Kingdom, France, and the United States would get together and not even one of them will say a word in our favor. All of them would talk about peace, in return for which Israel would have to pull back to the 1967 borders. Do any of those favoring the international conference think otherwise? Fine, Peres will come and reveal who this is."

It is interesting that Peres also thinks—and pointed this out in his briefing—that the Middle East issue will not take the place of honor in the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks in Moscow. There are signs indicating that Shultz, too, is not convinced that Moscow can be persuaded to accept Israel's terms; that is, that the conference will not have any status to determine the nature of the arrangements among the parties to the dispute. Shultz will neither spread out the tent of peace, nor will he be able to guarantee the "falling government's tent" for any length of time.

Communist Party Leader Vilner Interviewed

AU071338 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 3 Oct 87 pp 1,4

[Interview with Meir Vilner, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, by Boyko Vutov, *Rabotnichesko Delo* special correspondent in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Excerpts] My meeting with Comrade Meir Vilner took place in his office at the Central Committee. The conversation, unscheduled because of the heavy work load of the general secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, was thus all the more interesting and informal. Polite and attentive, my interlocutor immediately won me over with his special charm and the depth and precision of his expressions. Naturally, our meeting was also an expression of the traditionally close and fraternal relations between our parties. [passage omitted]

[Vutov] What is the party's evaluation of Israel's foreign policy, and especially Israel's position on the international conference on peace in the Middle East?

[Vilner] Peace in our region means a withdrawal of Israeli troops from all territories occupied in 1967, followed by the recognition of the Palestinian people's

right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state, alongside Israel. The PLO agrees to this realistic and just basis for reaching peace. Yasir 'Arafat expressed this position at the recent Geneva conference of nongovernmental organizations on the Palestinian issue, which took place under UN auspices.

Unfortunately, the Israeli Government not only rejected the PLO's outstretched hand of peace and continues to adhere to its unrealistic position, but also both Prime Minister Shamir of the Likud bloc and his deputy, Foreign Minister Peres, declared again that they will never negotiate with the PLO and will never agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

However, this does not mean that there are no differences between the men, as for instance on the issue of an international conference. Shamir is also categorically against the conference, thus representing the radical political line aimed at the annexation of all occupied territories—in other words, toward subverting peace efforts.

For his part Peres expressed support for the international conference, but with so many and such significant "buts" that in practice his position leads to the same result as the one adhered to by Shamir.

Another common element of the coalition is the support of Israel's strategic alliance with the United States as well as their support for the "star wars" project. How could it be any other way when without U.S. financial, political, and military support, Israel could not, for several decades now, have occupied the territory of three neighboring Arab nations—the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese nations?

[Vutov] What are the main responsibilities and tasks of the Communist Party of Israel under the present situation?

[Vilner] Everything I said does not mean that life stands still in Israel. Today many more people support peace. They are fed up with wars. Only last year two Zionist opposition parties accepted in principle the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Contrary to the official course of the government and the Labor Party, which is a member of the ruling coalition, some of the party's officials, including members of the Knesset (Parliament), also support this principle.

The basic element in the activity of the Communist Party of Israel is the striving to unite the struggle and efforts of all people who support peace and oppose the policy of annexation. One could say that the position of the Communist Party of Israel on the issues of war and peace, which for many years has not been supported by other political forces, now finds a more fertile soil. Our party is not isolated anymore. It finds ever growing support, especially on the issue of war and peace, despite the fact that the number of soberly thinking politicians is still very low.

The activities of the Communist Party of Israel, within the framework of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, which was established 10 years ago, is another important element of its work.

Today our responsibility is greater because of the sharp polarization of forces in our society. The powerful anti-war demonstrations and the refusal of young men to serve in the occupied territories and oppress other people are expressions of sobriety. There is also a reverse reaction. The radical racist forces are increasing their efforts, especially among those who have settled in the occupied territories.

I think that the restructuring, which is under way in the USSR and other socialist countries, is a factor which influences and will continue to positively influence the situation in our country. This can be felt in the behavior and actions of people, who until now only sympathized with the Communist Party of Israel. The holiday of the communist press and the concerts of the USSR Omsk folklore ensemble were very successful. [Passage omitted]

'PLO Activist' Al-Husayni Held for 6 Months

TA090837 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem District Court has confirmed a six month administrative detention order issued last month against Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni. The decision by court president Yehuda Weiss was based largely on secret evidence indicating that Al-Husayni maintained contacts with PLO officials abroad.

One of Al-Husayni's lawyers, Avigdor Feldman, said he would appeal the decision today to the president of the Supreme Court.

Al-Husayni, 47, who heads the Arab Studies Society in East Jerusalem, was arrested on September 12 under an administrative detention order issued by Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The security forces consider him to be the top PLO activist in the territories. They say he distributes money for the organization and has been behind numerous demonstrations and strikes.

The district court deliberated for about three weeks behind closed doors on the State Attorney's request for confirmation of the detention order. Details of its decision, taken Wednesday, were not made public. [passage omitted]

5 Wounded in Gaza; Other Disturbances Reported

TA090720 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Five Israelis were wounded in Gaza yesterday by stones thrown at a bus transporting tourists to Egypt. Some 24 hours after the killing of the four terrorists in the (Saja'iyah) quarter in Gaza, quite a few incidents and disturbances were recorded there yesterday. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports from the south:

Disturbances continued in Gaza yesterday morning, in the wake of the killing of the four terrorists by the security forces in the (Saja'iyah) quarter in Gaza on Wednesday morning. Gaza youths threw stones at Israeli cars and set tires on fire at several intersections.

At 0800 [0600 GMT] yesterday morning on the main road opposite Khan Yunus, stones thrown by high school students hit the windshield of one of two buses transporting Israelis from the Rafah terminal to Egypt for vacation. Five passengers were slightly injured by glass shards, and one of the passengers, from Mosha Giv'at Hen in the Sharon District, was sent to Ashqelon's Barzilay Hospital for medical treatment. His fellow passengers continued on their way to Egypt, while this passenger returned home upon his release from the hospital.

Life is continuing normally. Hundreds of Israelis crossed through the Rafah border terminal yesterday and the day before on their way for a Sukkoth vacation in Egypt.

King To Dispatch Envoys With Summit Invitations

JN090900 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—As of Sunday morning, His Majesty King Husayn will dispatch a number of senior officials to convey written royal messages to Arab kings and presidents officially inviting them to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference that will be held in Amman on 8 November. The envoys are Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Education Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin.

Al-Dustur has learned from highly placed sources that the envoys' visits will include Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia, Djibouti, North Yemen, and South Yemen. The sources asserted that official invitations were extended to their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies the kings, amirs, and presidents of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE during His Majesty King Husayn's recent extensive tour of these countries.

Minister on 'Violations' of Al-Aqsa Mosque

JN081400 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts, has commented on news reports that the Israeli authorities have allowed the so-called the Temple Mount Trustees group to pray in the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In a statement to the radio station, Al-Khayyat said that no confirmation of this report has yet been received. He also affirmed that Jordan, led by His Majesty King Husayn, gives the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque its full attention and is doing its utmost to support our brothers in the occupied territories to remain steadfast, protect themselves, and safeguard their holy places, first of all the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. He added that Jordan is following the reports of attempts to encroach on Al-Aqsa and is doing its utmost to thwart them.

Three New Colleges for West Bank Approved

JN080835 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 87 p 26

[Text] Amman—Informed sources said that the Higher Education Council has approved requests to open new community colleges on the West Bank. The sources pointed out that the Council approved the establishment of three new colleges, two in Hebron and one in Bethlehem. This raises the number of community colleges on the West Bank to 17.

AL-DUSTUR on Howe's 'Positive' Statements

JN081145 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "On Geoffrey Howe's Statement"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's statements represent an extremely positive British stand toward most aspects of the Middle East issue, particularly statements related to convening an international conference to achieve peace in this part of the world, as such a conference will offer the best possibility to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Moreover, Sir Geoffrey Howe's stand toward the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories and toward Israeli practices against Palestinian Arab rights in these territories also expresses a positive British policy. That is why these statements have received much welcome and satisfaction in Arab capitals.

We also welcome such statements which the Middle East issue has lacked for a long time. We believe they are significant, especially since they were made by a senior official of a big power. We hope London will continue such a policy which will turn these good intentions into tangible deeds. We also hope such statements will eventually prompt Israel to change its aggressive policies.

We stress the importance of such statements and view them as a great development in Britain's stands toward certain aspects of the Middle East issue. We hope these statements will pave the way for a collective European policy capable of encircling Israel's inhuman practices in the occupied territories and driving the leaders of the state that is occupying others' territory by force to the table of an international conference to achieve peace. As Sir Geoffrey Howe said, this conference will provide the best possibility to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Lebanese Front Secretary General Resigns 8 Oct

NC081338 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Deputy Edward Hunayn, the secretary general of the Lebanese Front, announced his resignation today from the Lebanese Front.

In a statement addressed to the Lebanese people from Bayt Shabab, Deputy Hunayn declared that there were several reasons for his resignation. The expansion of the Front had resulted, he said, in the presence of new members who based their work on considerations different from those on which the Front had been established.

Also, he continued, the majority in the Front does not represent the majority of Lebanese both at home and abroad. He affirmed his belief that Lebanon can only be saved through absolute cooperation with the legitimate authority.

Sham'un Returns, Makes Statement on Cairo Visit

NC090718 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] National Liberal Party leader Eng Dany Sham'un returned to Beirut last night after a brief visit to Cairo. During his visit, he met with Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and senior Egyptian officials. Their talks focused on the Lebanese situation.

In an arrival statement, Sham'un said he had made a cordial visit to fraternal Egypt where he had talks on the general state of Arab affairs and on the Lebanese problem in particular.

He added: The Egyptian officials demonstrated a profound understanding of the Lebanese situation and a sincere desire to help Lebanon ride out its current crisis. Eng Sham'un expressed his thanks for the behind-the-scene efforts of Egypt to bring about national accord in Lebanon and its support for Lebanese rights.

Eng Sham'un later telephoned a number of officials, including Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja', to tell them about the outcome of his visit to Egypt.

Israeli Warplanes Attack Positions in Tyre

NC081654 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1649 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received a report that Israeli warplanes are at this moment raiding positions in Tyre. Preliminary reports say there are a number of casualties.

Amal Security Plan for Suburbs Postponed

NC081710 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 Oct 8

[Text] Quoting informed security and political sources closely following current preparations to implement the security plan in the southern suburbs, the *Central News Agency* reports that Hizballah's warnings have had an effect, resulting in the postponement of the implementation of the plan until the end of the week. The plan had been scheduled to take effect this morning.

Consultations are currently taking place between the leaders of Amal and Hizballah and Iranian officials after Hizballah declared its ranks on alert and rejected any chance of Amal's security plan encompassing Hizballah's areas of influence in the southern suburbs.

These sources have disclosed that the contacts 'Aql Hamiyah [Amal military official] has held with Hizballah leaders in this connection have failed in light of Hizballah's insistence on retaining influence over the areas of Al-Ruways, Bir al-'Abd, and Al-Shiyah. These areas are Hizballah strongholds, where Amal influence is very minimal.

The sources said that Hamiyah had informed the Amal leaders of the need to postpone the implementation of the plan, pending completion of the consultations.

Incidents Between Amal, Palestinians Reported

Tension on Combat Lines

NC081658 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] According to a security report from the south, extreme tension prevails on the combat lines of southeast Sidon amid intermittent sniper fire. Clashes took place before noon today on the combat lines of Tanburit, Jinsnaya, and Baysur between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen.

Clashes in South, Beirut

NC090657 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] According to the latest security reports from east of Sidon, traffic on the Al-Ghaziyah coastal road is at risk because of sniper fire.

Amal and the Palestinians exchanged violent artillery fire on the Zighdraya, Tanburit, Kafr Hatta, Jinsnaya, Darb al-Sim, Al-Ghaziyah, Duhur al-Ghaziyah, and Maria Maghdushah combat lines east of Sidon between 2300 last night and 0630 this morning. Casualties have not yet been determined because of the tension prevailing in the area as a result of the ongoing intermittent exchanges of machinegun and rocket fire.

Tension prevails in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps in Beirut, where a state of alert has been declared.

Security sources have monitored Syrian and Amal vehicle movements, in response to which Palestinian gunmen have appeared on the scene and the two camps are on alert.

It has been reported that tanks shelled positions in Shatila camp at 2330. The Palestinians in the camp have been directing sniper fire at the Syrian and Amal positions since 0600 this morning.

Palestinians Seize Positions

NC090735 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] According to security reports just received from east of Sidon, the Palestinians in Baysur and Jinsnaya have brought in additional troops from the 'Ayn Jalut and 'Al-Yarmuk brigades. The Palestinians, who managed to gain control of Baysur, Jinsnaya, and the 'Al-Mharbiyah ridges last night, have prevented Amal Movement gunmen from advancing toward Al-Mujaydil.

Meanwhile, Amal gunmen are positioned in Tanburit, Al-Mujaydil, Kafr Hatta, and Kafr Milki. Machinegun fire is currently raging along the Maghdushah, Al-Ghaziyah, Maria, and Darb al-Sim lines.

Fall of Kafr Hatta Denied

NC090952 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] The Amal Movement has stated that clashes broke out along the Al-Ghaziyah, Maghdushah, Maria, Tanburit, and Al-Mujaydil lines this morning. The movement admitted that intensive Palestinian concentrations had been seen in the Jinsnaya-Baysur-al-Mharbiyah triangle. However, the movement denied that Kafr Hatta had fallen to the Palestinians.

Resistance Kills 2; Hasbayya Official Expelled

NC090707 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The Martyr Muhammad Salim Forces of the National Resistance Front issued the following statement yesterday:

The Martyr Natasa Sa'd group and the Martyr 'Ali Abu Iyad group planted landmines on the Sfaray-Kafr Falus military road which is used by the forces of agent Antoine Lahd. Two landmines exploded when a Lahd patrol was passing along the road, and one vehicle was destroyed. The resistance men then attacked the patrol, killing two and injuring three others. [Passage omitted]

According to reports from the border area, the Israeli authorities have cut off the water supply to 'Alma al-Sha'b from occupied Palestine. They also expelled 25 girls and women who were working in Israel after demonstrations staged by the town's inhabitants against Israel's slicing off their land in order to annex it.

In the eastern sector, the Zionist authorities expelled Hasbayya District Officer Nadim Abu 'Ajram from the occupied area after a combined force of Israeli intelligence and agent Lahd militia security men raided his house, searched it, and scattered and destroyed some of its contents.

Bomb Blast in Tripoli Kills 3 Syrian Soldiers

NC081405 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Oct

[Text] An unidentified spokesman for the Lebanese Liberation Organization has claimed responsibility for an explosion in Jabal Muhsin near Syrian intelligence headquarters in Tripoli this afternoon. The explosion left three Syrian soldiers dead and a number of others injured.

In a contact with Radio Free Lebanon, the spokesman also claimed responsibility for shots fired last night at a Syrian intelligence member named As'ad in (Al-Dinniyah) in the north. As'ad was killed, and a member of the Dadun family who was with him was injured. The spokesman said that the Syrian occupation forces have surrounded the area and detained a number of civilians.

Sha'ban Calls on Muslims To Follow Iran

LD071856 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Text] Beirut, Oct. 7, IRNA—Head of the Islamic Towhid (Unification) Movement in Lebanon Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban called on Arab and Islamic states to tread the true path of Islam, by following the lead of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a meeting with Iranian ambassadors to Beirut and Damascus, Ahmad Dastmalchiyan and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli Tuesday, Shaykh Sha'ban cautioned Muslims to beware against the dangers posed by certain Arab organisations who claim to be Muslims but in fact collaborate with the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Situation of the Muslims in Lebanon especially in Tripoli was also discussed during the meeting.

Fadlallah Interviewed on USSR, U.S., Iran

JN071943 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Oct 87 p 18

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah spiritual guide, by Sa'd Muhyu and Husayn Hamiyyah in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Khalij*: Soviet and U.S. officials now agree that Iran is the most dangerous hot spot in the international conflict. It was this way in 1946 and remains so in 1987. In your opinion, how far can the international conflict vis-a-vis Iran go?

[Fadlallah] I believe that the U.S.-Soviet conflict in Iran cannot reach such a high degree of tension that the two parties would lose control of their political lines in the arena of international struggle. The USSR's only current ambition is to gain an advanced position in Iranian politics. The objective is to have normal relations in the near future on one hand, and to prevent any kind of U.S. move to make Iran once again a pressure point on the USSR, on the other.

At the same time, U.S. policy has no ambitions under the present circumstances to occupy Iran. Such a move is out of the question in light of the structure and movement of the Islamic revolution inside Iran as well as international circumstances on all levels. The United States, like the USSR, has ambitions to establish balanced relations with Iran through the pressure it is trying to apply on Iran in the Gulf.

Therefore, the United States will not undertake any adventure leading to a violent confrontation with the USSR. This makes us believe that there is a demilitarized zone between U.S. and Soviet policies. We should also realize that the United States wants to preserve its position in the Gulf, even as the Gulf states have begun to complain about its acrobatic policy and disregard for its friends. The USSR also wants to obtain a foothold in the Gulf.

The U.S. military parades are merely military, political, and media demonstrations to stir up the Gulf on one the hand, and to send a message to the Soviets, containing the red line on this issue, on the other. I believe that the two countries know full well the nature of the red line between them.

Therefore, I do not see any near or long-term possibility of a sharp conflict between the United States and USSR through Iran. This is despite a political conflict at the highest levels to be Iran's friend. [passage omitted]

Al-Khalij: Some people compare Iran's attempts to play a double-standard role between the two superpowers with one of the Nasirite political stages, which aimed at acheiving independence. However, Iran's geopolitical position cannot be compared with Egypt's in the international conflict. Consequently, Iran seems to lack the ability to play an independent role without foreign support.

[Fadlallah] I believe that what is considered a weak point is in fact a point of strength. I differentiate between the Nasirite game of balance in Egypt and in the Arab countries and Iran's game of balance. In Egypt, both camps had the freedom to bypass this game because the Nasirites had no truly serious positions. However, Iran is in a strategic position on more than one level. This position gives it a great deal of freedom to maneuver. Iran enters deep inside the U.S. strategy to surround the USSR. It also enters deep inside the Soviet strategy to eliminate this cordon on one hand, and to reach warm water, as they say, on the other. Therefore, both camps lack freedom of maneuver in this regard except through playing games inside [Iran]. Each party tries to encourage the elements that embrace its policy or that dissent from the policy of the present regime. Therefore, I believe that this game of balance will serve the interests of the Islamic regime in Iran.

We must take into account that, according to U.S. strategic policy, Iran should not fall or be fragmented. Therefore, U.S. policy refrains from any pressing military action that would allow this fragmentation. The USSR also lacks the potential to contribute to such fragmentation. Therefore, a solid position emerges from [Iran's] internal nature—including the rallying of the people around the revolution—and the balance in foreign policy. This solid position differentiates the situation from the Nasirite issue. [Passage omitted]

Al-Khalij: This concentration on the intrinsic factor makes us pose a question on internal developments in Iran. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked about the emergence of two separate and contradictory parties in Iran.

[Fadlallah] I do not think the issue is as delicate as the media describes it. The position of Sheykh Montazeri is that of a hoped-for guide of the revolution. It is not the position of a political group moving under the patronage of the guide [Khomeyni] with another group. Sheykh Montazeri's religious role in Iran is that of a competent authority—the role of master Khomeyni. Therefore, all political groups moving within the circle of official responsibility are interested in rallying around him, supporting him, and backing him because there is no alternative to him at the current stage.

Therefore, they endeavor to give him every possible power, integrate with him, and solve minor problems, if there are any. Thus, we notice that when a problem was raised during the trial of Mehdi Hashemi, who is considered one of Sheykh Montazeri's supporters, the issue quickly created confusion. Everyone in Iran moved to support Sheykh Montazeri, who let justice take its course. Therefore, we cannot say that there is a conflict between Sheykh Montazeri and Sheykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani because no matter how powerful Sheykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani becomes, he will not be an alternative to Sheykh Montazeri.

Al-Khalij: But it has been said that the failure of the U.S.-Iranian talks resulted from conflicts within the Iranian leadership.

[Fadlallah] I do not believe the matter was like that, because the one setting the constant positions in Iranian policy, especially on the United States, is Imam Khomeyni, who is basically consulted on strategic policy.

Therefore, the U.S. issue was, since the beginning, handled as a way to get some arms and restore Iranian assets, without advancing one step forward. We noticed through the circumstances of the McFarlane visit to Tehran, before the appearance of the issue of Mehdi Hashemi, that the issue was controlled with certain restrictions. This makes us disagree with the view that world press attention has hindered this issue because of the pressures exerted to halt this approach in Iranian policy.

Moreover, we believe that this publicity has played a role in preventing the U.S. side from promoting its relations or increasing its concessions on the issues of arms or assets. The issue was preplanned to take this approach. Perhaps we can understand the nature of the movement of Iranian policy toward the United States if we follow up the Iranian issue with the French policy, which was moving in a complicated atmosphere.

At a certain time, France felt that it had a positive, firm grip on the joints of Iranian-French relations. However, it finally discovered that Iran had not revealed all its cards in expectation of larger benefits.

Therefore, he who follows Iranian politics can conclude that its nature differs from that of Arab politics. Arab politics are superficial, and thus differ from Iran's far-sighted politics, which are looking for a great position in the world, not a temporary position. [Passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar Receives Lao Party Delegation 8 Oct

JN081154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received a Lao People's Revolutionary Party delegation led by Comrade Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Party's Central Committee.

Talks during the meeting dealt with relations between the two parties and their development. Talks also dealt with international issues of mutual concern, particularly developments in the Middle East and in Indochina, and also with the comprehensive development efforts in both friendly countries to build a new society.

Papers on 'Correct Solution' for Lebanon

JN081414 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 8 Oct (SANA)—The newspaper *Al-Ba'th* affirms: The Lebanese problem will remain as it is unless the Lebanese agree among themselves to resolve it and the basis for such a solution must stem from inside, not outside, Lebanon. Furthermore, an effective and lasting solution can only be obtained through a national accord.

In a comment today, the paper adds: It is strange indeed for some of those who speak in the name of Lebanon to jump over all these facts and to return once again to the course of seeking a solution from foreign forces. Yet, they know full well that placing Lebanon in foreign hands that want to use it for their own interests and maneuvers in the region will only bring more disintegration, differences, and divisions in the Lebanese arena.

Al-Ba'th asks: How can these people permit themselves to equate Syria with Israel in Lebanon? Is this not a blow to Lebanon's real interests and the struggle of its people?

The paper continues: Those who are seeking a solution to the Lebanese crisis at the door of foreign forces, which had originally caused this crisis and exploited it to the maximum, are lying to the people if not to themselves. They are purposely avoiding the correct solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Ba'th concludes: Syria, which has given great assistance to Lebanon and made all kinds of sacrifices for the sake of its recovery, has not been and will never be an enemy of Lebanon. Those who are trying to provoke Syria will never succeed in making it take such a hostile stand because there is no conflict between the true interests of all devout Lebanese and the national and pan-Arab interests of Syria.

Commenting on the same subject under the headline "Israeli Ambitions and the Facts of the Situation in Lebanon," *Al-Thawrah* says:

At a time when Israel is pursuing a policy of settlement and annexation at the expense of Lebanese territory, some Lebanese officials are trying to cover up this Israeli aggression by talking about certain roles and by trying once again to leap past the facts in the Lebanese arena.

The paper adds: Those who are again raising the delusions of solutions from overseas, behind borders, or behind Israeli occupation lines do not seem to have benefited from experience, which has proved that the wager on the American solution and the Israeli role is hopeless. This wager will only throw Lebanon on Israel's lap and lead once again to tribulations, anarchy, and chaos.

Al-Thawrah explains: Those who are today criticizing Syria's national salvation role in the Lebanese arena are in no way different from those who are implementing Israeli plans in Lebanon.

Those who once supported the Syrian role, then turned against it and exposed their real stands by playing with words, are only an example of people who capitalize on Syria's pan-Arab and humanitarian role in Lebanon.

It is better for these people, who are in positions of authority, to devote their efforts instead to exposing Israel's expansionist plans and confronting the dangers of Zionist settlement on Lebanese territory.

The paper concludes: Syria has always stood for Lebanese national accord. It has also assisted and supported the Lebanese resistance, which is capable of foiling Israel's plans and hostile expansionist objectives on Lebanese territory.

Israel has clearly presented itself as an enemy who covets Lebanon's territory and resources. So how can some people confuse the two parties and two stands and how can they leap past the facts of Arabdom and the homeland?

Afghanistan

Najib, Keshtmand Greet GDR on Founding Day

LD080925 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 7 *Bakhtar*—Congratulatory messages of the DRA's party and state leadership addressed to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and president of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Willi Stoph chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR have been sent to Berlin on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of foundation of the GDR.

The messages stated that the heroic people of the GDR have succeeded in building of a developed socialist society under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and with close cooperation of other socialist countries.

The messages also stressed that the existing friendly and brotherly ties and cooperations between the DRA and the GDR are for the benefits of the peoples of both countries, peace and security in the world.

The messages are signed by Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

Zhivkov, Others Send Congratulations to Najib

LD080927 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 7, *Bakhtar*—Messages of congratulation have been received from Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, CC, and president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, general secretary of Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee on the occasion of election of Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC, as president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

The messages considered his election as a manifestation of people's trust which has been put on him.

Confidence has also been expressed in the messages for ever-further expansion and consolidation of friendly and brotherly ties between the governments and peoples of the countries with the DRA.

Similar messages were also received from the Executive Board of Central Council of Bajawar Agency and representatives of Chetral, Dair, Swatt and Galgate on the same occasion.

A number of congratulatory messages have also been received from local institutions on the same occasion.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned for Journalists Entry

LD081753 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] At the DRA Foreign Ministry this morning, the director of the First Political Department handed a protest note to the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul regarding the illegal entry of a number of Pakistani journalists into DRA territory. It reads:

According to reports by some new agencies, including the Pakistani press, a 16-member group of journalists from Pakistani national newspapers and Lahore- and Islamabad-based news agencies recently spent 3 days in the border areas of Paktia Province.

Arrangements and preparations for this open journalistic visit were made by a Pakistani organization with the assistance of the Islamic Assembly of Pakistan and the so-called Islamic Party of Afghanistan. [Passage indistinct]

(?The note) adds that responsibility for the repetition of such hostile actions rests with the Pakistani authorities.

Najib Meets Provincial Leaders, Representatives

LD080918 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 7, *Bakhtar*—Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA, CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA received the elders, chieftains and representatives of six provinces of the DRA, here on Tuesday.

Talking to the elders and representatives of those provinces Dr. Najibullah said "[words indistinct] significant and prominent tasks are still laid before us, the most vital of which is securing peace and normalcy in the country".

The party and state leaders of the country emphasized on the contribution which should be made by them in putting an end to bloodshed and fratricide.

The participants of the meeting assured the leadership of the DRA of their sincerely [as received] contribution in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

Ziray Attends Farah Province Peace Assembly

LD082048 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpts] A broad peace assembly was held today in Farah Province with thousands of representatives of various classes and strata in the province participating. Farah Province was named as a peace zone.

A BIA correspondent reports that attending the assembly were: Comrade Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; more than 700 persons, including worthy representatives of the ulema; theologians; peasants; workers; tradesmen; private investors; the intelligentsia of the tribes and nationalities; personnel from the party and state apparatus and from social organizations; and a number of soldiers, officers, and NCO's of the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Farah Province.

The work of the assembly began with the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran and then Colonel Abdol Hamid, retired, head of the National Reconciliation Commission of Farah Province, presented a report on the work and activities of the commission during the last 9 months since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy.

He reported the since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, in Farah Province, 288 national reconciliation commissions have been established with the participation of more than 900 persons including representatives of the opposition; 180 villages have come over to the side of the revolutionary power peacefully; elections for local state organs have been successfully completed in 190 villages; 200 people from the patriotic ulema and theologians have embarked on propaganda work in connection with the national reconciliation policy; 41 mosques have been repaired and voluntary works have been organized over 200 times aimed at cleaning residential areas; more than 4,100 emigres have returned from Pakistan and Iran to the homeland and relief aid from the DRA and the friendly Soviet Union have been distributed to them.

At present, 800 emigres are engaged voluntarily in security tasks in the ranks of the Revolutionary Defenders in villages, localities, and state and public establishments.

Then, Gholam Hayder, head of the Provincial Council of the National Front and deputy head of the National Reconciliation Commission of Farah Province, spoke. On behalf of the National Reconciliation Commission and the Provincial Council of the National Front of that province, he proposed that Farah Province be declared a peace zone. [Passage omitted]

The participants of the assembly, in an atmosphere of unity and cohesion, issued messages addressed to the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers, the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation and the DRA National Front, as well as messages addressed to refugee compatriots and armed opposition groups. [Passage omitted]

Herat 'Opposition Groups' Sign Cease-fire

LD080924 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 7, *Bakhtar*—Six leaders of the formerly opposition groups numbering 1,500 rpt 1,500 persons belonging to Herat Province signed protocols of ceasefire in the past six months. Eight armed opposition groups for Pashtoon nationality numbering 3,262 rpt 3,262 persons responded to the call of national reconciliation and joined the groups of the defenders of revolution with their weapons.

A representative of the provincial Department for Tribes and Nationalities said during the same period 800 rpt 800 families numbering over 4,000 rpt 4,000 persons gave up their miserable life in abroad, returned home and resumed their normal life in different (?areas) of Herat Province.

Twenty five tribal jirgahs were also held in different parts of Herat Province in order to manifest the participation of tribes and nationalities of Herat Province for the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation, the representative added.

India

Pakistani Attack in Siachen Region Repulsed

BK081555 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Indian troops have repulsed an attack by Pakistani troops in the Saltore ridge area of Siachen. The attack was launched after a lull of some days.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that once again our troops repulsed the attack, causing casualties to the Pakistani troops. Our casualties were considerably less.

Official Spokesman on Tibet, Dalai Lama

BK081606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India regards Tibet as an autonomous region of China. Responding to queries from newsmen about the developments in Lhasa, he said we do not comment on the internal affairs of China.

Replying to a question on what the Dalai Lama said in Dharamsala yesterday, the spokesman said the Dalai Lama is a religious and spiritual leader. When he came to India, he was given asylum on humanitarian grounds. He was advised that no activity of political nature may be conducted from the Indian soil.

The spokesman said we have repeatedly requested him to respect our wishes in this regard. In the recent past also the Indian Government has drawn the Dalai Lama's attention to these points.

In reply to another question, the spokesman said India is seeking to improve its relations with China.

Tibetans Scuffle With Police at PRC Embassy

BK090755 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 9 (AFP)—Indian police commandos arrested Tibetan protesters who broke through steel barricades Friday outside the Chinese Embassy during their current anti-Chinese campaign for independence, witnesses said.

Carrying Tibetan flags and posters, nine Tibetans, including two Buddhist monks, clambered over steel railings and ran towards the massive closed embassy gates in a bid to break in.

Two Tibetan monks tried crawling towards the embassy after they fell down during a scuffle with commandos as other protesters hurled abuse at Chinese diplomats locked inside the compound. All nine were dragged away by police, witnesses said.

The demonstrators demanded the release of protesters held in Tibet's capital Lhasa where up to 13 people reportedly died in clashes last week.

Police ordered pedestrians off the streets near the embassy and two Tibetan passers-by were threatened with arrest a kilometre (less than a mile) from the Chinese mission, witnesses said.

The Tibetan Youth Congress President Lhasang Tsering, who was also arrested, termed New Delhi's neutral stand over the Tibetan issue as "very unfortunate" and said it was in India's interest that China quit Tibet.

New Delhi Thursday said it would not interfere in China's internal affairs, but had repeatedly told the Dalai Lama—temporal and spiritual leader of the Tibetans—to stop his political campaign against Beijing from Indian soil. He called for further protests in Lhasa Wednesday.

Meanwhile, about 150 Tibetan protesters from all over India picketed the local United Nations office Friday. Scores of riot-police and commandos surrounded the protesters.

The Tibetan Youth Congress Secretary-General Tashi Namgyal said the picketers were on a day's hunger strike to focus world attention through the United Nations to the plight of Tibetans in Lhasa.

Defense Minister Leaves for Sri Lanka Talks

BK090444 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] The peacekeeping forces in Sri Lanka launched operation against the Tamil militants in both the northern and eastern sectors late last night. According to Defense Ministry sources in Madras, over 70 militants have been apprehended by 0730 this morning. Electric wire obstructions were encountered during combing operations on camps and hideouts. The operations are continuing.

Reinforcements have reached Trincomalee, and the peacekeeping force is spread out in the Eastern Province to keep the situation under control. Barring the lone incident of a mine blast in Batticaloa yesterday, the situation is said to have remained under control. The bodies of 12 Tamil Tigers who committed suicide earlier have been handed over to the LTTE. They bore no marks of mutilation.

The Army chief, General Sunderji, visited the disturbed areas in the north and east, including Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Jaffna to assess the situation. He had discussions later with the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, and the chief of the joint operations command of Sri Lanka, Lieutenant General, Cyril Ranatunge, in Colombo.

The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, left for Colombo this morning for discussions with the Sri Lankan president and other leaders on matters relating to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The recent developments in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of the island will also figure in the talks.

In the meantime, speaking to a government parliamentary group, President Jayewardene said that there is conclusive evidence to show a link between the LTTE and the banned JPV [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] to obstruct implementation of the peace agreement. He said he is in touch with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on the developments.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has condemned the massacre of Sinhalese by LTTE earlier this week. In a statement, a spokesman of the front, Mr (Katheswaran), described the act as barbaric and totally unjustified.

In New Delhi, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday had talks with some senior opposition leaders. They are understood to have discussed recent developments in Sri Lanka. The meeting lasted half an hour each. The leaders who met him include the Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr L.K. Advani; the CPI general secretary, Mr Rajeshwara Rao; and the CPI-M leader, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad.

Tamil Liaison, Information Offices To Close

BK090535 Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 9 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Tamil expatriates will close down their liaison and information offices in India and in London this month, a spokesman said here Friday.

The Eelam Liaison Office, which opened here in January to act as a link between Tamil militants and the Indian Government, will close around October 15, spokesman K. Migneswaran said.

The office was headed by Lakshmi Naganathan, a former Sri Lankan diplomat, and Mr. Vigneswaran, a former government officer in Colombo.

The Tamil Information Centre in London, the Tamil Information and Research Unit in the southern Indian city of Madras and the Tamil Information Centre in neighbouring Madurai will also close by the end of October, he said.

"We have done our part by bringing to the attention of India and others the plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka," said Mr. Vigneswaran, who would be returning to Sri Lanka for the first time after the island's 1983 anti-Tamil violence.

"The (Indo-Sri Lanka) peace accord has been signed and we feel that it is time for us to return home to assist in the process of rehabilitation," he added.

Mr. Vigneswaran said he and fellow Tamils here hoped that Indian peacekeeping troops, deployed in Sri Lanka under the July 29 peace accord, would be able to return peace to the island nation.

The Tamil Information Centre in London and offices in Madras and Madurai, both in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, were all set up in 1983 — the year in which a violent Tamil separatist struggle flared in Sri Lanka.

All Sri Lankan Tamil militant and moderate groups have offices in India, mainly in Tamil Nadu, home to more than 50 million Indian Tamils.

PRC Official Meets Minister of State Faleiro

BK090545 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] The secretary of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr Lin Huaxuan, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, in the capital this afternoon. They discussed matters of bilateral concern.

USSR Ready To Make Indian Ocean Peace Zone

BK090929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, has reiterated his country's stand on making the Indian Ocean free from foreign naval fleets. He said his country is prepared to resume dialogue with the United States and other non-littoral states which are keeping warships in the Indian Ocean, for making it a zone of peace.

In response to an appeal made by about 50 prominent Indian citizens, Mr Gorbachev said that the United Nations and the international community must speak out firmly for holding the international conference on the Indian Ocean.

Mr Gorbachev's reply was handed over to the chairman of the Indian Ocean Committee, Mr Romesh Bhandari, by the Soviet ambassador, Mr V. N. Rykov, in New Delhi today. A large number of members of Parliament attended the function. These included Mr Anand Sharma, Mr Ghulam Rasool Kaur, Mr G.L. Dogra, Mr P.M. Sukul, Mr K.R. Bhushan.

Iran

Boats 'Savagely Attacked' by U.S. Gunships

NC090449 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that three patrol boats of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] were attacked by several U.S. helicopters in the Persian Gulf last night.

According to this report, an informed source in the IRGC Navy commented on the tension-creating act carried out by the United States last night and said: The Iranian boats were carrying out normal patrol missions on the high seas in the northern part of the Persian Gulf around Farsi Island when they were suddenly savagely attacked by U.S. helicopters. He refuted allegations by Pentagon officials that the Iranian boats attacked the U.S. helicopters first and said:

The Iranian boats were on normal patrol when they were attacked by American helicopters. He added: During this savage attack by the Americans, several crew members of these boats were martyred or wounded and, according to a statement by U.S. officials, six of the crew members were taken hostage by the U.S. military.

In conclusion, he referred to the aggressions and instigations by the United States in the Persian Gulf and said: The tension-creating acts by the Americans have created a bleak outlook for the future, but the Americans will definitely be the true victims of the raging tempest in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Helicopter 'Shot Down'

LD090922 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Iranian forces aboard speed boats shot down a U.S. helicopter with surface-to-air Stinger missiles and damaged an American vessel immediately after U.S. helicopter gunships attacked five speed boats in the international waters of the Persian Gulf Thursday.

An informed military source told IRNA that five Iranian speed boats were on a routine patrol mission in the international waters of the Persian Gulf near the Farsi Island when they were suddenly attacked by foreign helicopters at 09:45 hours local time (06:15 GMT p.m.) Thursday. [As received]

Quoting the Iranian combatants aboard two of the speed boats which had managed to escape safely, the military official added they did not know in the beginning that they have been attacked by American helicopters.

He also totally rejected a U.S. claim that the Iranian boats had first fired at the American helicopters and said it was just the opposite.

The source said Iran's Muslim combatants who did not expect such an attack, immediately responded by attacking the U.S. helicopters. As a result, he said, a U.S. helicopter was hit by an Iranian Stinger missile and crashed in the Persian Gulf waters. The crash, according to the military source, was coupled with a huge explosion which lit the sky.

The Iranian combatants also fired light missiles at several U.S. vessels which had rushed to help the helicopters as a result of which one of the American vessels was hit and damaged.

The military source said American warships have circled the embattled areas seriously searching for the bodies of the downed helicopter's crew.

According to him the clash between the U.S. helicopters and the Iranian speed boats lasted for 20 minutes. He said three of the boats were hit which carried a total of 12 people six of whom have been moved to U.S. fleets.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters told IRNA that Iran considers the U.S. attack on the Iranian speed boats as an "open military action" by the U.S. against Iran.

He described as 'mere lies' the U.S. claim that the Iranian gun boats had fired at the American helicopters first.

The spokesman said the U.S. had paved the ground for "committing this crime" since last Wednesday when it began to raise the issue of concentration of Iranian speed boats near the Khark Island which he said was a routine daily movement.

The WIH official said the U.S. has thus practically involved itself in a war and is exactly treading a path favored by the Iraqi regime.

The spokesman warned the American people that Reagan's unwise and provocative policies will eventually involve them in an unwanted war. He urged the Americans to pressure the U.S. Administration to stop these provocative acts before it is too late. Otherwise, he warned, the American troops will not return to their home on their own foot (indicating they will be taken home in coffins).

In conclusion, the WIH spokesman stressed that the U.S. was responsible for the lives of the six Iranians it was holding and urged Washington to hand them back immediately.

Velayati Message to UN

LD091228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati has sent a message to the UN Secretary general, a copy of which was also sent to the president of the Security Council. The message concerns last night's barbaric attack by U.S. helicopters on patrol boats of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We now hear this report:

The message of our country's foreign minister states: Mr Secretary General. Just a few days after the aggression by U.S. military forces against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, the fire-raging policies of the U.S. Government were again revealed by the U.S. military helicopters' attack on patrol boats of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps off Farsi Island.

Repetition of these events shows the warmongering objectives of the ringleaders of the White House in the region. How can one believe the claim of the U.S. Government that it has sent fleets—armed to the teeth—to the region, motivated by the desire for peace and security, within the framework of implementing the Security Council resolution? How can one believe this when ther are clear violations of international regulations and aggression against the sovereign rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

U.S. aggression and its military provocations in the region daily have ever wider dimensions, yet international forums continue their deadly silence, having lost the courage to interfere or to make protests to end such bullying impudence. It is as if the UN Charter has not been entrusted with the duty to maintain security or prevent aggression.

While performing their sacred duty to guard the territorial waters and territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the children of this martyr-nurturing nation were subjected to a barbaric invasion by U.S. militarists, and a number of them joined their creator. Others, meanwhile, were abducted illegally. It must be emphatically recalled here that the responsibility for any form of negligence regarding the safety of the prisoners and their speedy repatriation rests with the U.S. regime.

Mr Secretary General, the flagrant U.S. crime will not only increase the unwavering resolve of the Iranian nation in its struggle against U.S. domination-seeking moves, but it will also make Iran more resolute in its faith to continue on the path leading to the shameful defeat of the United States in the region.

A heightening of the war and U.S. action in baring its teeth in the Persian Gulf is clearly an indication that the region has been placed on the threshold of another Vietnam. Such military aggression will eventually inflame the entire region. The war will continue for years, and world peace—that phenomenon which the Security Council respects only in words—will undoubtedly be seriously endangered through such headstrong U.S. acts in the Persian Gulf region.

Mr Secretary General, I hereby declare that the responsibility for starting a full-fledged war in the region and the very dangerous consequences of violating international regulations rests on the U.S. Government's shoulders. The only way to prevent the expansion of tension is the speedy departure of the foreign forces from the waters of the Persian Gulf.

I am dutybound, through Your Excellency's office, to submit to the world and the Security Council my strong protest concerning U.S. Government policies in the Persian Gulf. I want this protest to be registered as a document in the United Nations so that the responsibility of everyone in confronting the aggression and in removing the tension-creating elements is noted.

Musavi-Ardabili Sermon Notes U.S. Encounter

LD091249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, in the Tehran Friday prayers, referring to the United States's tension-fomenting deeds in the Persian Gulf—including the sinking of the supply ship *Iran-Ajr* by U.S. ships stationed in the Persian Gulf—remarked:

U.S. helicopters last night attacked four Iranian patrol boats that were patrolling the Persian Gulf in the vicinity of Farsi Island. They sank three boats, capturing three of their crew, two of whom have become martyrs. This is at a time when the United States, under the pretext of establishing security in the Persian Gulf and protecting Kuwaiti tankers, has entered the Persian Gulf and brought along NATO forces and has also forced the reactionary leaders of the region follow it.

However, everyone knows that with all the commotion set off by the United States in order to enter the Persian Gulf, it is trying to solve some of its own problems. These include the nest of spies event; Tabas [the U.S. failed rescue mission]; the Nowzheh coup d'etat [abortive Air Force coup, as alleged by mullahs]; the McFarlane issue; and the economic boycott of Iran. These events caused the United States such humiliation that Reagan now believes he has solved his problems with this kind of commotion.

However, if aggression, murder, raids, and plunder endows the United States with integrity, then it is unnecessary for the United States to be present in the Persian Gulf. The United States's disgrace in the Vietnam affair and its attack on Libya should have been enough for her.

Presently, the United States, with its military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, has embarked on the ugliest, most blatant, open deeds. However, it should know that Islam's edicts on defense are incumbent upon us and upon all Muslims. We have no fear of martyrdom, destruction, bombings, or missile attacks. We will not give up our sacred defense. We say that we are in favor of justice and rights, and would like to see the roots of corruption and aggression in the region smashed and justice prevail so that the region will become peaceful.

The United States should know that it cannot utter such words to or behave in this way towards a nation that takes pride in martyrdom and considers it a disgrace to be subjected to oppression and tyranny. We will fight according to our religious duty, and we will defend our just right in the Persian Gulf, whether we kill or whether we are killed.

Continuing his sermons, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili stressed that the Friday prayer leaders should follow up on exposing the crimes of the Al Sa'ud regime in the bloody Friday event in Mecca. Pointing to the need for further scientific research in the field of Islamic theology and culture, he proposed that a scientific center for Islamic studies be established in Iran and called for the cooperation and collaboration of seminaries, ulema, and scholars.

In conclusion, the chairman of the State Supreme Court warned money grabbers, profiteers, hoarders, and violators of public property, and said: If they think they can infiltrate through illegal [na-mashru'] channels and receive verdicts in their favor from the courts, then they should know that they are wrong and that such verdicts will be nullified. They should know that a country which is in the process of conducting its holy defense will not tolerate these kinds of problems.

IRGC Naval Commander on Preparedness in Gulf

LD081711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] A naval military commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has announced: Through numerous exercises in the Persian Gulf, fighters of the IRGC Navy have achieved optimum military preparedness.

On reports concerning the buildup of Iranian speedboats off the coast of Khark Island, he said: This is a normal event, openly carried out. On U.S. propoganda regarding the concentration of speedboats in the Persian Gulf, he said:

The United States and the reactionaries of the region are frightened of any normal movement by Iran. However, they must know that our operations will not be such that they may anticipate them beforehand. We will perform our operations by fully maintaining the principle of suprise.

On the motives behind the "Island Liberation" maneuver, the operational commander said: We must be on full alert to defend the territorial waters and the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The various exercises which have been continuously undertaken are aimed at attaining such a preparedness. At present, our forces are maintaining a satisfactory level.

He said the "Island Liberation" operation was one of these exercises. It was performed with the objective of increasing the level of our forces preparedness and also to assess the enemy's preparedness. The exercise caused deep anxiety among the United States and its allies in the region.

He added: The exercise indicated that the United States and the reactionaries of the region continuously live in fear. This proves our operational strength. In any case, they are concerned that they may receive an unexpected blow.

Japanese Tanker Hit by Missile in Gulf

OW081124 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Beirut, Oct. 8, KYODO—An Iranian missile hit a Japanese-owned chemical tanker off the Saudi Arabian coast in the Gulf early Thursday, Gulf shipping sources said.

They identified the ship attacked off the Saudi port of Jubayl at 06:25 GMT (3:25 p.m. Thursday Japan time) as the 9,400-ton *Tomoe-8*. The engine room was set on fire, they added.

The vessel flies the Panamanian flag and is operated by the Japanese shipping firm, Niwase Kaiun.

The attack was the first on a Japanese-related vessel after Japanese shipowners lifted a ban against their ships sailing in the Gulf.

The sources said it was not clear whether the missile was fired from a gunboat.

Other shipping sources said the vessel was travelling in ballast to Jubayl when it was hit by what they described as a big missile above the waterline. They said it was attacked in the vicinity of the Ra's al-Tannurah lightship in the central Gulf.

The sources said the captain reported minor injuries to three of its Burmese crew when a large projectile slammed into the tanker above the waterline, setting the engine room ablaze.

The sources said an Iranian vessel had been in contact with the Panamanian-flag tanker asking for its destination shortly before it was hit near Ra's al- Tannurah.

They said first reports suggested the Iranian ship opened fire, but shippers had been puzzled by the size of the missile, unusually large for an Iranian attack.

Japan has pledged a 10-million dollar navigation system for monitoring ship movements in the region.

Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i described Japanese plan to provide help for Gulf shipping as a break with Tokyo's traditional policy.

On Wednesday, five Japanese ships were sighted in a convoy in the Gulf off the coast of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Japanese ships had been banned briefly from the waterway by their owners but the ban was lifted earlier this week. Nine Japanese ships had been scheduled to enter the Gulf early Wednesday.

About the same time shipping sources reported the attack on the Japanese-owned tanker, Iraq said its planes hit a large vessel in the Gulf Thursday.

Baghdad radio quoted a military spokesman as saying the vessel was hit south of Iran's Khark Island oil export terminal at 06:30 GMT (3:30 p.m. Thursday Japan time).

Majlis Speaker Views Relations With Japan

LD081730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli, the Iranian ambassador to Japan, was received this afternoon by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. At this meeting, Mr Adeli presented a report on the area of his responsibility and remarked on the role and positions adopted by Japan on bilateral relations and on current regional issues.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly first discussed bilateral relations. He said: The two countries enjoy good relations and must use their facilities and interests to provide that basis for more understanding and cooperation in the future.

The Majlis speaker then referred to the United States' presence in the Persian Gulf and said: The more time passes, the clearer it becomes that U.S. policy does not seek to maintain security. Therefore, assisting the United States and strengthening that country cannot be considered a step toward maintaining security but, rather, may be termed a special kind of posturing.

He added: We favor a policy of collective security maintenance and consider security to be specific to the countries of the region. We would support any project for maintaining real security in the Persian Gulf. Obviously Iran, as the largest country in the region, would play the most important role, because any project that excludes the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be successful.

Japanese Envoy Holds Talks With Counterpart
OW080219 Tokyo KYODO in English 0212 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, KYODO—Japan's offer to contribute toward ensuring safe navigation in the Persian Gulf—including installation of an advanced radar navigation system to guide ships plying the mine-infested waters—is not regarded as hostile action directed against Iran, Japanese diplomatic sources said here Thursday.

In a luncheon meeting with Japan's ambassador to Tehran Yoshio Fujimoto, Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli, Iran's envoy to Tokyo, and other Iranian Foreign Ministry officials said Iran acknowledges that the new Japanese measures unveiled in Tokyo Wednesday to not constitute an act of animosity toward Iran, diplomatic sources reported.

They added the Iranian officials warned Fujimoto that bilateral relations would sour if Japan should offer financial support to U.S. military efforts in the Persian Gulf in the future.

Prior to the meeting, Adeli told Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i that Japan-Iranian ties were on favorable terms and making progress.

According to reports, however, Khamene'i did not refer directly to the Japanese plan which had just been announced in Tokyo.

The *Islamic Republic News Agency* (IRNA) reported Wednesday that during the meeting with Khamene'i, Adeli said Japan's position regarding the United Nations resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and the presence of U.S. ships in the Gulf should be considered "in the framework of Tehran-Tokyo friendly relations."

IRNA also reported that Khamene'i said his recent meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was "fruitful" and that Japan was taking a "positive" stance on the Persian Gulf in the U.N.

The two leaders met in September in New York during the U.N. General Assembly session.

International pressure calling for stepped-up Japanese action on the Gulf navigation issue has been mounting, particularly since Japan imports some 55 percent of its total crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

During his U.S. visit, Nakasone promised U.S. President Ronald Reagan that Japan would devise a constructive aid policy regarding the Gulf issue.

Following up on the pledge, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda announced datails of the new measures in Tokyo Wednesday, which include:

- construction of a state-of-the-art Decca navigation system,

- 10 million dollars for U.N. Gulf mediation costs,

- 200 million dollars in low-interest development loans to Oman and 300 million dollars slated for Jordan.

Turkish Official Meets Khamene'i, Musavi
NC091013 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhat Kandemir was received by President Khamene'i and Prime Minister Musavi today. He delivered written messages from President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey to our president and prime minister.

In his meeting with President Khamene'i, Kandemir conveyed warm and fraternal greetings from his president and prime minister and stressed the need for the further expansion of good relations and cooperation between the two Islamic countries of Iran and Turkey. He then explained the current problems and difficulties in Cyprus and informed our president of the recent UN decisions on this issue. He also referred to our president's historic speech to the UN General Assembly and said:

President Evren read Your Excellency's speech carefully and stated that it was very interesting and diplomatic. On the critical situation in the Persian Gulf, Kandemir informed our president of his country's wish to prevent the exacerbation of tension.

President Khamene'i then expressed his thanks for the warm greetings from the president and prime minister of Turkey. He emphasized the need for the further expansion and consolidation of friendly and fraternal relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Turkey, and described bilateral relations as deep-rooted.

Referring to the Cyprus issue, Mr Khamene'i said: On the issue of Cyprus, we clearly support efforts to end tension in that very sensitive area. The president pointed

out: We believe that the Cyprus issue should be solved through talks and understanding between the sides and move toward a logical and rational solution.

On the U.S. military expedition to the Persian Gulf and the creation of tension by that country, Mr Khamene'i said: The U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, which is increasing daily, has made this region explosive. Mr Khamene'i pointed out: The United States should be pressured, because this harsh military presence has not only destroyed regional security, but has increased insecurity, tension, conflicts, hostilities, and grudges against this superpower. All countries, both littoral countries and those with interests in the Persian Gulf, who want regional security to be preserved, should pressure the United States to refrain from creating tension in the Persian Gulf. The main element of insecurity and the main problem of the region is the presence of the United States itself, he added.

Turkey's deputy foreign minister also met with the prime minister and informed him of his government's wish to help prevent the exacerbation of tension in the Persian Gulf. In addition, he emphasized the Turkish Government's stand on the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf and the solution of regional problems by regional countries.

Prime Minister Musavi expressed his thanks for the friendly message of the Turkish prime minister and said: The Islamic Republic's principled position is that the aggressor should be named and punished. The Iraqi regime's crime is so great that it is easy to understand who started the aggressiuon and when. The prime minister stated: We emphasize that the aggressor must be identified and punished. This logical demand of ours has many practical aspects. It is a question of choosing the most suitable course.

On the creation of tension by the United States in the Persian Gulf, Mr Musavi stated: The Americans have said that they want to prevent our victory. Who is America to do so? America wants to inflame the Persian Gulf. However, it should understand that any act against our country will be answered. We have prepared ourselves for America's aggression.

On Persian Gulf security, our prime minister said: This security can be achieved under the aegis of the Persian Gulf countries' impartiality in the war. In principle, Persian Gulf security is indivisible and any attack on our ships and oil installations will make all oil installations and tankers in the Persian Gulf vulnerable.

IRNA on Palestinian Deaths in Gaza

LD0081852 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct. 8, IRNA—Four Palestinians martyred in a shoot out with Zionist security forces in the Gaza Strip Tuesday night were members of the Islamic Jihad legions, according to an informed source.

The source who asked not to be named, told IRNA here that the "Khalid ibn Walid" unit of the organization killed an agent of the Shin Bet secret service during the clash.

The four, driving in two cars, were heavily armed, according to Maj. Gen. Yitzhaq Mordechai, the head of the so-called Southern Front in occupied Palestine. The army had struck at "one of the most dangerous and well-organized squads in the Gaza Strip. There is no question that the action removed a dangerous threat," he said.

The general claimed the group was on its way to carry out an unknown target. [as received] Considerable amounts of arms, ammunition and explosives were recovered from them, including two Kalashnikov and one M-16 rifles and two Beretta pistols.

The Islamic Jihad legions of Palestine claimed responsibility for the assassination of a high-ranking army officer in Gaza city early August in response to the massacre of pilgrims by the Saudi security forces in Mecca.

The martyrdom of at least five Palestinian pilgrims in the Mecca tragedy on July 31 led to demonstrations in the Al-Aqsa mosque, the third holy shrine of Muslims in Bayt al-Maqdas (Jerusalem). Protest meetings were also held in several other mosques in the occupied territory.

Tuesday night's incident between the security agents and Palestinian guerrillas was the most serious in recent years, bringing the number of Palestinians killed in Gaza to seven in the past month.

Palestinians say the spread of Islamic beliefs in the Gaza Strip is more visible than other parts of Palestine. The youth, disappointed with the conciliatory policies of the Palestine Liberation Organization, are being attracted to Islamic Groups. The Islamic appearance of the people is more distinct too, they add.

The Gaza region has a population of more than 600,000, nearly all of whom are Palestinians living in very poor conditions.

U.S. Pressures Allies on Gulf Involvement

LD0081800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Belgian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met with the Majlis speaker yesterday. During the talks, he referred to the present situation in the Persian Gulf and his government's position, saying:

I would like to inform Your Excellency that my government is concerned over the situation in the Persian Gulf. Everyone is aware of Belgium's stance in the war. We are

neutral in this war. We unconditionally condemn the violation of international regulations and conventions, such as chemical bombing, attacks on residential areas, and raids on civilian aircraft and international shipping.

He also said: We regret the present situation in the Persian Gulf. We were the last among the European countries to deploy minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. This is a small step and should not be deemed an act of aggression.

The Belgian ambassador concluded by saying: We have repeatedly said that Iraq started the war, as admitted by the UN secretary general. Iraq is the aggressor; this is a fact.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the contradiction in the words and deeds of the European Governments and their indecisiveness in the face of Washington's demands and objectives. He told the Belgian ambassador:

Take this message to your friends. Saddam will be eliminated eventually. The Western powers will certainly leave the Persian Gulf and the region, but with shame. They will leave behind a world of hatred and animosity in Muslim hearts.

At the same time, yesterday the U.S. Senate, despite dissatisfaction among Washington's European allies, asked Reagan to ask other countries—who benefit from the so-called plan to escort Kuwaiti ships—to contribute toward the $20 -million cost incurred by the U.S. military forces in the region. Of course, this motion approved by the Senate is not confined to Washington's European allies and will include other countries.

In any case, the Reagan administration's objective is to unite the Western military front against Iran. This was the objective from the very beginning when Washington initiated its policy of support for the Iraqi regime and for military intervention in the Persian Gulf, first, because the military presence of other Western powers along with U.S. forces in the Gulf will involve others in the bitter consequences of the Reagan administration's aggressive policies; and second, because the expansion of this front, irrespective of a lack of desire among the other states involved, is viewed by Washington statesmen as a symbol of strength and solidarity among the Western allies.

Soon after the implementation of the plan to escort Kuwaiti ships, Britain and France— always quick to observe Washington's cruel orders—deployed military forces and warships in the Persian Gulf region, thus demonstrating their solidarity with Washington. They immediately embarked on intense activities to apply pressure to other European and non-European countries.

Eventually, the pressure exerted by the British and French Governments on the EEC forced other states such as Italy, the Netherlands, and Belgium, which at first had opposed the deployment of military forces to the Persian Gulf region, to enter the Persian Gulf on various pretexts, including support for their own ships and cooperation in minesweeping.

At present, in view of the recent Senate motion, the main thrust of U.S. pressure is applied to those countries that, in accordance with their legal systems, are unable to deploy military forces and warships to the region. Consequently, it appears that on the basis of the evidence, including statements by the U.S. authorities, most of this pressure is being exerted on the Japanese Government. Unfortunately, some evidence indicates that according to U.S. authorities, this pressure has yielded positive results.

The U.S. war minister, Caspar Weinberger, recently said: The terms which the Japanese prime minister has raised can be considered an initial and excellent step in Japan's assistance to secure freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf. However, regarding the advantages which Japan has gained in the postwar era—due to its noninvolvement in international entanglements—it must be said that any possible utilization of its human and financial resources in international conflicts will not be in line with Japan's traditional policies.

Anyway, the positions and measures adopted by the European governments show that despite their persistent claims to the effect that they are independent and that they do not blindly follow Washington's tyrannical objectives, by yielding to the Reagan administration's demands they have become involved in problems that present a very bleak future for them. Obviously, in the event of increased tension and involvement, the bitter consequences of such events will not be confined to the U.S. and British forces.

It is thus timely for the European governments to pay attention to the grave consequences of the interference of the multinational forces in Lebanon. Having done so, these governments would be well advised to refrain from introducing their capabilities, equipment, and human resources to the Persian Gulf and from linking their future to the doomed fate of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq and the bleak future of the Reagan administration's aggressive policies. If the results of these policies were not bleak, the Reagan administration would most certainly not have tried to exert pressure on other European governments to bring them to the Persian Gulf.

West's Hold Over Security Council Assailed

NC081204 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Imperialist Dictatorship"]

[Text] Yesterday, the *Reuter* news agency announced that five UN Security Council members will meet behind closed doors in order to reach decisions on Middle East

issues and U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf. They will then convey the results of their decisionmaking to the 10 non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

It is very clear that at the session of the five permanent UN Security Council members, the United States, Great Britain, and France are in the majority and will be able to exert psychological pressure on the other two permanent members. The tone of the *Reuter* report is indicative of the imperialist dictatorship reigning over the UN Security Couuncil. This threatens the international prestige of countries such as the Soviet Union and the PRC. The United States is able to impose its views on the Security Council with the assistance of its European allies, that is, Great Britain and France, although these views may be in opposition to the international interests of the Eastern bloc.

In this manner, the United States is trying to prove something that the Eastern bloc has denied so far. The United States wants to prove that real world power is in the hands of the West and the Eastern bloc has no alternative other than to accept the reality of U.S. power. This is the point against which the socialist camp has taken a stand; it has constantly claimed to be engaged in a struggle against imperialism.

In such circumstances there is only one banner of justice in the world that remains unfurled. It remains unfurled even in the face of the tempest of imperialist aggression, which has not been able to undermine it. This flag is the international ideal of the Islamic Revolution. In the maelstrom of the incidents in the Persian Gulf, there is only one candle that burns steadfastly despite all the darkness and turbulence, the luminescent candle of the manliness and fortitude of the Iranian nation.

O youth of Iran! Do not abandon the fronts! Do not forsake the enemy halfway to victory in the field of battle! March ahead to the fronts! Forge ahead to avenge the blood of the martyrs! Forward for the defense of Islam, the Koran, and the aspirations for liberation of the nations. The Persian Gulf will be the graveyard of the imperialists! So be it!

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,983

LD081628 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—A cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection by Iran's Navy gunboats Wednesday. The gunboats also searched four other cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

Announcing the above, the 2983rd Joint Staff Communique reported here Thursday that Iran's Muslim combatants continued exchanging artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops throughout the fronts Wednesday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Iranian patrol convoys successfully reconnoitered key Iraqi positions throughout the battlefields Wednesday and returned safely to bases.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts as well as a command jeep were destroyed in parts of the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranaian Gendarmerie forces Wednesday.

In Mehran and Zobeydah, western and southern sectors, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on Iraqi troops attempting to move motorized columns and fortify their positions Wednesday.

The artillery fire of the Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments east of Basra and Hoseyniyeh, southern sector, Wednesday, inflicting several casualties and losses on them, concluded the communique.

Iraq Resumes Chemical Warfare

LD081810 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—Around 100 Iranian combatants were martyred and many others wounded when the Iraqi regime yet again resorted to the dastardly act of chemical bombardment on an operational region, in northern Sumar (Bakhtaran Province) Thursday.

The injured were immediately transfered behind the fronts for medical treatment, and anti-chemical units went into action cleansing the region of chemical substances.

A War Information Headquarters (WIH) spokesman told IRNA that Baghdad rulers have once more perpetrated the most inhuman act by deploying internationally-banned materials.

Warning international societies, the spokesman said it is time these bodies, which claim to be protectors of human rights, took serious action vis-a-vis the new Iraqi atrocity.

The WIH spokesman concluded by calling on the United Nations to dispatch a probe team to the bombarded region in order to prepare a report on the latest crime committed by the Baghdad rulers.

On June 28, some 100 civilians were martyred and 2,000 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes chemically bombarded residential areas in the northwestern Iranian border town of Sardasht, in Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province.

Sri Lanka

Indian Peacekeeping Force Begins Operations

BK090849 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0841 GMT 9 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 09 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Indian peace keeping force [IPKF] launched operations against the Tamil militants both in the northern and eastern areas late last night, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced in its news bulletin this afternoon.

Reinforcements reached Trincomalee and the IPKF spread out in the Eastern Province to keep the situation under control.

50 From LTTE Arrested; Mines Kill 21

BK081548 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Reports from the north and east of Sri Lanka say that about 50 LTTE men, including some front rankers, have been taken into custody in the security operations which began last evening. Ten were arrested in Batticaloa and another 40 in Jaffna.

Reports also speak of violence in some areas of northern peninsula. Some government buildings were set on fire. Twenty-one people died in landmine blasts today. [Passage omitted]

LTTE Leader, Military Commander Arrested

BK090506 Hong Kong AFP in English 0444 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 9 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's top Tamil militant leader and his main military commander have been arrested by Indian peace-keeping troops during an operation in the northern Jaffna peninsula, Tamil sources here said Friday.

The sources said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his lieutenant Mahattyasiri had been arrested in connection with a fresh outbreak of separatist violence in Sri Lanka.

Tamil militants have been held responsible for the killing of at least 130 people in the island nation since Tuesday.

It was not immediately clear when the two men were arrested, but the government clamped a 12-hour curfew in the peninsula from Thursday evening without giving any reason. [Passage omitted]

'Powerful Bomb' Rocks Colombo Port; 3 Dead

BK090511 Hong Kong AFP in English 0502 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 9 (AFP)—A powerful bomb rocked the Colombo port area Friday killing at least three dock workers and wounding scores of people, police and eye-witnesses said.

The bomb went off at 9.00 a.m. (0330 GMT) inside the offices of a dockworkers' union affiliated to the ruling United National Party, they said.

Police said an Army bomb disposal squad was searching the area for more explosive devices, and added that fire engines and ambulances had gone to the scene.

Witnesses said a warehouse was also damaged, but ships in the port did not appear to have been touched in the explosion.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the blast.

Indian Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

BK090903 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force have apprehended 98 Tamil militants following raids on militant bases in the northern and eastern sectors. They include the deputy leader of Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front, Mr (Kalik). According to a Defense Ministry spokesman in Madras, arms and ammunition have also been seized from the militants.

Reports from Colombo also say that the peacekeeping force took control of several camps occupied by different Tamil militant groups. The action followed launching of an operation against the LTTE militants in both the northern and eastern sectors late last night.

Another report says that six persons were arrested in connection with yesterday's landmine explosion in Batticaloa District in which several people lost their lives.

Meanwhile, an explosion rocked Colombo port area today killing at least three dockworkers. Agency reports from Colombo say that scores of people were also wounded in the blast which occurred inside the offices of a dockworkers trade union affiliated to the ruling United National Party. An army bomb disposal squad is searching the area for more possible bombs. It is not immediately known who is responsible for the blast.

Two persons were killed and five injured when peacekeeping forces opened fire in two separate incidents in Trincomalee last night. These people were reported to be indulging in arson.

The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, arrived in Colombo this morning. He is scheduled to call on the president, Mr Jayewardene, in the afternoon to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The recent developments in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of the island will also figure in the talks. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that Mr Pant is also expected to meet the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali.

Minister Criticizes India Over Violence
BK090946 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 9 (AFP)—A senior Sri Lankan minister Friday lashed out at New Delhi for the escalation of violence in the island as India's defence minister arrived here to coordinate a fresh offensive against Tamil separatists.

Agriculture Minister Gamini Jayasuriya likened the situation in the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces to the Indian state of Punjab, where Sikh militants have waged a bloody separatist campaign, and said the majority Sinhalese were being persecuted by Tamil rebels.

Opening a Parliament debate on the violence, Mr Jayasuriya said the 10,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force in the island had "failed miserably" in maintaining law and order and protecting citizens of all communities.

As he was speaking, Indian Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant arrived here on a 24-hour visit to coordinate an Indian military offensive to disarm Tamil rebels in the wake of the violence, Indian diplomats said.

India has blamed the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the violence, which began in the Eastern Province Tuesday, apparently to avenge the suicide deaths of 15 LTTE militants while in custody Sunday.

The latest official toll of the killings was 130, mostly Sinhalese.

New Delhi has vowed to use all necessary means to disarm the militants.

Indian troops Friday launched raids against an unspecified number of Tamil bases in the north under the cover of a 12-hour curfew. Sri Lankan military sources said at least three camps of minor Tamil groups were attacked.

An Indian military source said 90 Tamils had been arrested, mostly LTTE men, and unconfirmed reports said at least 12 rebels were killed in the operation.

Mr Pant was to meet Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene here.

His visit came as a powerful bomb rocked the Colombo port area, killing at least three dock workers and wounding about 16, officials said.

Police said no one has claimed responsibility for the blast, but a banned Marxist group the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front), which has violently opposed the peace pact, was suspected.

In parliament, opposition MP's cheered and thumped tables as Mr Jayasuriya, a critic of July's New Delhi-backed peace pact, opened the opposition-sponsored debate in an unusual move not seen in the Sri Lankan Parliament recently.

"The authorities in the north and the east are still counting the charred, dismembered and bullet-riddled bodies of nearly 200 unarmed men, women and children, who were killed in cold blood by the LTTE," Mr Jayasuriya said.

He accused Indian troops of inaction in allowing the massacres and said Sri Lankan troops had been subjected to "insults by a foreign army" while forced to stay in their barracks to watch "the harrowing butcher of the Sinhalese."

"Our soldiers have become prisoners of peace, while the Indians are turning a Nelsonian eye to the violent acts of the rebels," he charged.

Sri Lankan troops were restricted to barracks under the peace pact, which mandated the Indian Peacekeeping Force to maintain law and order and ensure a Tamil arms surrender.

According to unofficial estimates, about 15,000 Indian soldiers and paramilitary troops are in Sri Lanka.

Mr Jayasuriya said about 350 people had been killed in Sri Lanka since the signing of the peace accord on July 29 aimed at ending the four-year old Tamil separatist conflict.

"These massacres took place under the guarantees provided by the peace pact that said the Government of India will ensure the physical security and safety of all communities," he said.

"India has blamed the LTTE for the killings and have condemned them. But the Government of India has only itself to condemn," the minister added.

Meanwhile, police reports from the eastern Batticaloa District said suspected LTTE gunmen ambushed a bus at Eravur early Friday and killed a Sinhalese passenger.

Opposition Wins Request for Debate on Crisis

BK090421 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0205 GMT 9 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 8 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The government parliamentary group unanimously agreed to accede to an opposition request for an adjournment debate in Parliament on the present situation in the country. They felt that free expression of views should be allowed, states a press release issued by the office of the chief government whip today.

The president said that he himself was for a free discussion. He recalled that during the war when the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was in America a request was made for a debate in Parliament to discuss the situation of the war. When Sir Winston was contacted he said that the debate should be held and he himself rushed to Britain to be present during the debate. In times of crises Parliaments have met and held discussions either publicly or in camera.

Mr Jayewardene told the members of Parliament that they should remind the leader of the opposition and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party how when they were in the opposition they helped the government of Mrs Bandaranaike in order to preserve democracy. [Passage omitted]

The president appealed to the opposition not to give ammunition to the JVP, [Jatika Vimukthi Peramuna] and terrorists by rousing the people.

President Jayewardene also told the group that he will not be attending the Commonwealth of heads of states meeting in Canada next week in view of the present situation. "I will be with you to get over the present troubles", he told the members of Parliament.

He said that there was no point in criticising anyone—either Mr Rajiv Gandhi or the Indian troops or any other person. "Please blame me and I will accept it", President Jayewardene said.

Members of the government parliamentary group also unanimously decided to give their fullest support to President J R Jayewardene and the cabinet in regard to the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord after the president briefed the members of Parliament on the latest position with regard to it's implementation.

The proposal was moved by Mr Lionel Jayatilleke, minister of educational services and rehabilitation who said that they were convinced of the president's desire to achieve peace. He said that the entire group should give the president and the Cabinet their fullest backing in their tasks at achieving peace.